

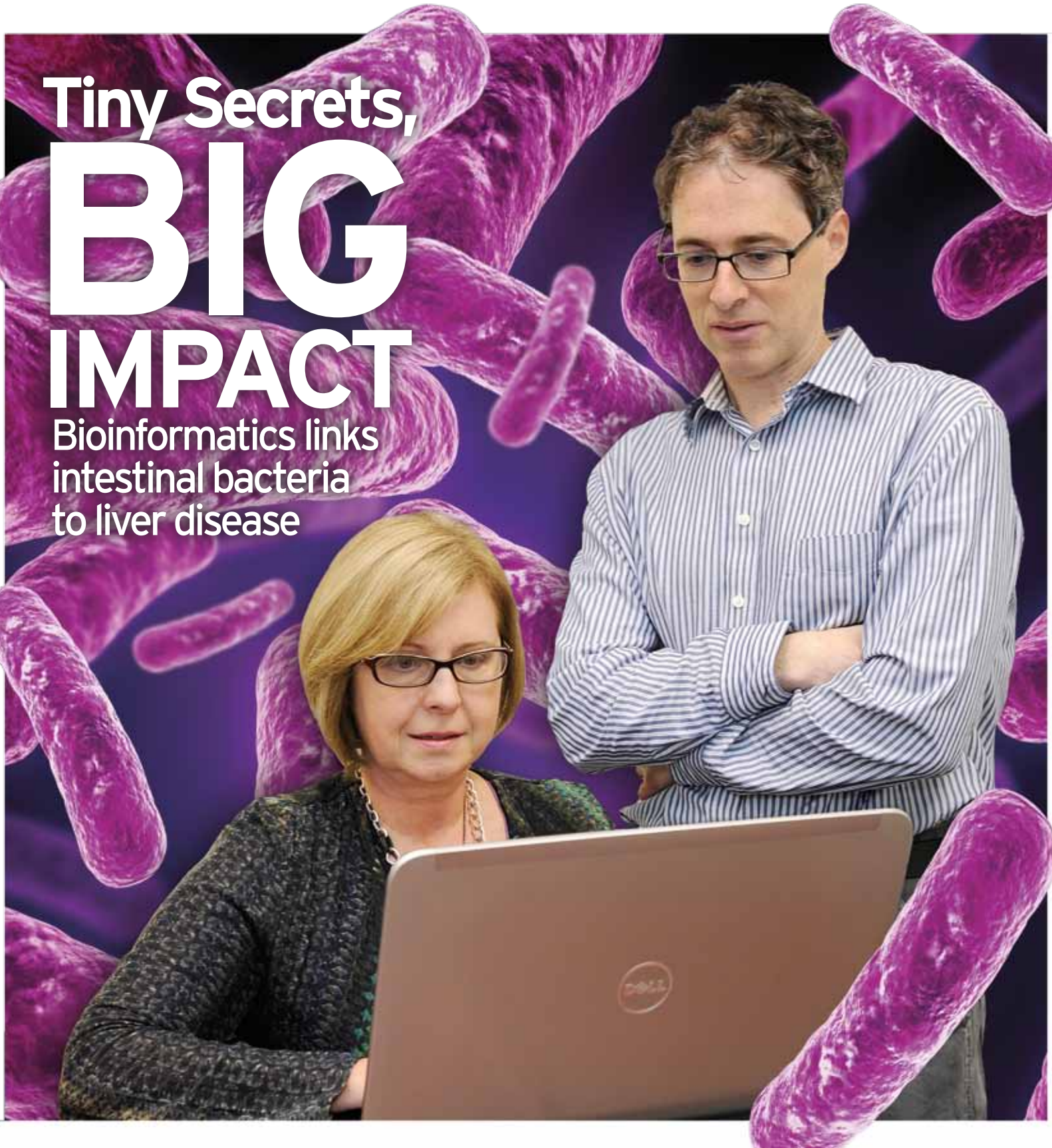
UNC Charlotte

The magazine of The University of North Carolina at Charlotte for Alumni and Friends • v18 q2 • 2011

Tiny Secrets,

BIG IMPACT

Bioinformatics links
intestinal bacteria
to liver disease





"UNC Charlotte is meeting its mission as the region's urban research university.

Several recent developments are further evidence of the University's rising stature as a research institution."



Staking Our Claim to Academic Excellence

Even in difficult economic times, there is reason for pride and optimism at UNC Charlotte. This issue of *UNC Charlotte* magazine shines a richly deserved spotlight on our outstanding students, faculty, and alumni as they blaze trails as community servants and entrepreneurs, and create new knowledge. In fact, we recently celebrated the University's 61st commencement, an event that is a great source of pride for the University community and our more than 3,300 spring graduates.

This year's commencement ceremonies provided evidence that UNC Charlotte is meeting its mission as the region's urban research University; this year, 88 doctorates were awarded in fields ranging from bioinformatics and computational biology to public policy. In fact, several important end-of-semester developments, some of which are covered in more depth within this magazine, are further evidence of the University's rising stature as a research institution.

In 2011, four current graduate students and three undergraduate students were awarded National Science Foundation fellowships. The Graduate Research Fellowship recipients include Phillip Davis, Andrew Hicks, Amy Ingram and Amy Stonger. Undergraduate students Samantha Finkelstein, Jordana Hodges and Brandon Kerr also received NSF Graduate Research Fellowships. The highly competitive NSF program provides three years of support for the graduate education of individuals who have demonstrated their potential for significant achievements in science and engineering research. Many former NSF Fellows have become leaders in their chosen careers and Nobel laureates.

Casey Rimland is yet another 49er to achieve a major scholastic recognition. Casey, a University Honors Student majoring in biology and psychology, recently received a prestigious Goldwater Scholarship, the first one ever awarded to a UNC Charlotte student. Casey is a truly exceptional student who has conducted publishable scholarly research in three disciplines – biology, chemistry and psychology – as an undergraduate. Casey, who also is a C.C. Cameron Merit Scholarship recipient, was among only five North Carolinians to receive the scholarship this year.

A new class of Levine Scholars recently was selected from among 1,100 nominees from 18 states. Sixteen young leaders from high schools across the United States, including 12 from North Carolina, were chosen after a lengthy nomination

and interview process. This is the second year for our flagship merit scholarship program, which covers the cost of all tuition and fees, housing and meals, books, a laptop computer, and summer experiences. As with our first class, the students who will join us this coming fall as Levine Scholars are among the very best that can be found in higher education. In July the scholars will travel to Alaska for a 25-day leadership expedition.

This spring we were thrilled to supplement news of these examples of academic achievement with news of our football facilities groundbreaking. Close to 3,000 students, faculty, staff and friends of the University gathered in the spring sunshine on April 28 to celebrate the occasion. The event gave everyone a taste of what's to come when the permanent, 15,000-seat stadium, field house, and practice fields become a gathering place for home games and homecoming celebrations. Mark your calendar now for our first home game against Campbell University, August 31, 2013.

Lastly, it is likely that by the time the print issue of the magazine arrives in your mailbox a state budget will have passed. The more our legislative representatives have learned about our campus, the more they have joined our growing community of supporters. However, they have very difficult choices to make, and at the time of this writing are considering cuts of 12 to 15 percent for higher education. Without a doubt cuts of that magnitude will impact significantly the programs and services we offer to our students at UNC Charlotte. Look for additional communication about the budget situation from the University's leadership in the coming months.

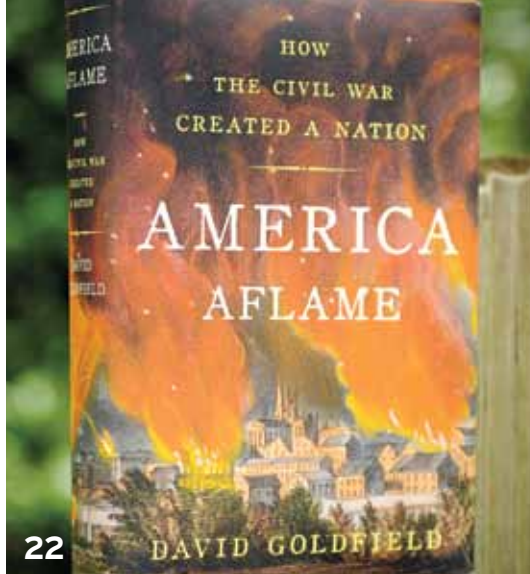
As we prepare to usher in the 2011-2012 academic year, we will face a new set of challenges. I can assure you, however, that we are as committed as ever to making the educational and co-curricular experiences at UNC Charlotte the very best that they can be and to fully delivering upon our mission as North Carolina's urban research university.

Cordially,

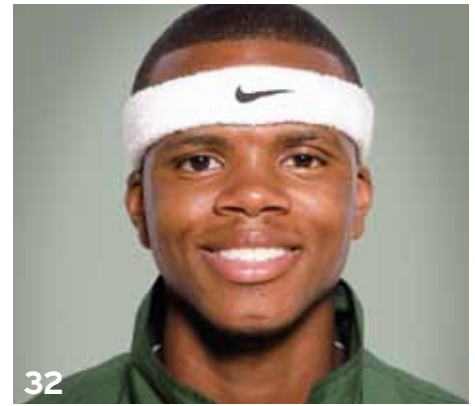
Philip L. Dubois
Chancellor



10



22



32

features

10 Social Studies Squeeze

In America's elementary and middle schools, teachers are spending far fewer hours on social studies education than on other subjects. UNC Charlotte education faculty examine the causes and consequences of the decline.

14 Tiny Secrets, Big Impact

UNC Charlotte researchers explore the relationship between complex microbial ecologies in human intestines and the common but serious medical condition known as fatty liver.

22 No Choice But to Fight?

Historian and professor David Goldfield's book *America Aflame* has made waves in the year of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Find out why.

25 Shades of Meaning

The question of race—what it is and isn't—has been debated for centuries. A UNC Charlotte professor of anthropology and noted historian and author shed some light on the origins of a concept that has influenced human behavior for centuries.

26 Egging on Entrepreneurs

Calling all entrepreneurs! The UNC Charlotte Five Ventures program celebrates a decade of promoting entrepreneurship and economic development in the Charlotte region by rewarding innovative, early stage businesses.

35 Major Download

Digital resources are leveling the playing field among academic libraries. The J. Murrey Atkins Library recently acquired electronic databases that allow faculty, staff and students to access the best primary sources and research materials the digital world has to offer.

departments

- 3 News Briefs
- 18 49ers Notebook
- 20 Center Stage
- 38 Class Notes
- 40 Building Blocks
- 41 Perspective

stake your claim profiles

- 9 **Fondness & Awe: Dan Morrill**
UNC Charlotte's longest serving faculty member reminisces about 48 years of transformation at the University, and looks ahead to new endeavors.
- 12 **Unexpected Wall Streeter: Derrick Smith, '00**
A former C.C. Cameron Scholarship recipient combines his passion for architecture with a career in finance.
- 30 **Answers for Needy Moms: Susan Andersen, '84**
An alumna pays it forward by establishing an endowment to help single moms earn a college education.
- 32 **Scholar, Athlete, Humanitarian: Darius Law**
The 2011 recipient of the Nish Jamgotch Jr. Humanitarian Student Award has a heart for children in need and a passion for service.

On the cover:

Most microbes, whether inside us or not, are surprisingly new to science, or are still completely unknown. In UNC Charlotte bioinformatics researcher Anthony Fodor's lab, an exciting link has been uncovered between gut bacteria and a common liver disease. Photo by Wade Bruton. Illustration by SPARK Publications.



Miss Bonnie Would be Proud

I am writing this on the day the North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management announced a spending freeze for the remaining three weeks of fiscal year 2011. This freeze means that UNC Charlotte will not get millions of dollars of budgeted state funds as the year winds down. Such is the state of North Carolina's fiscal woes.

This development gave me pause to consider what the students, faculty and staff of UNC Charlotte have endured during this long, historic recession and how we have borne the challenges. Doing more and more with less and less is a challenge, but one that tests and builds character and compels us to look long and hard at what we do and how we work. From everything I have seen, the people of UNC Charlotte have borne up very well. If Miss Bonnie Cone is watching, I feel sure she is impressed. This is a university of talented, motivated, resourceful, committed people who work hard and smart for the greater good.

Despite the hardships of ongoing budget cuts, shrinking financial aid, the need for many of our students to work longer and harder in jobs required to pay for school, the great work of UNC Charlotte continues. You'll find evidence of that great work in these pages.

In our cover story you'll read about important research in the science of bioinformatics – that place where biology and computing merge into an extremely powerful tool for tackling all sorts of problems. You'll read about the tenth anniversary of Five Ventures, a practical, successful program to encourage, nurture and support entrepreneurs. You'll read two stories of impressive humanitarian efforts by a student-athlete and an alumnus. There's a lot more – all of it growing from great work by the dedicated people of UNC Charlotte. Read on and find out.

And thank you for supporting UNC Charlotte.

Regards

John D. Bland, Editor
Director of Public Relations

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recycled paper



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Woodward Recognized with Honorary Degree

Chancellor Emeritus Jim Woodward received an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree in recognition of his many contributions to the university, the greater Charlotte region, the state and the nation at UNC Charlotte's spring commencement on May 14.

Woodward served 16 years as UNC Charlotte's third chancellor, during which time the University introduced its first doctoral programs and matured into the state's urban research institution.

Known for his integrity, leadership skills and vision, Woodward has been called upon in difficult circumstances by community and state leaders to provide counsel, as well as to direct educational institutions and initiatives.

At the request of former UNC System President Erskine Bowles, Woodward served as NC State University's interim chancellor in 2009. His higher-education experience and calm demeanor helped bring stability and transparency to the university during a difficult time of leadership transition.

Following his service at NC State, Woodward was named by Mecklenburg County commissioners to convene and chair the 17-member Future of the Library Task Force. Commissioners made funding of the county's library system dependent on formation of the task force, which identified efficiencies within the public library system.

In addition, Woodward was asked by UNC system President Thomas Ross to conduct a sweeping review of academic programs across the state's public university system in order to eliminate unnecessary duplication. The on-going review was prompted by steep state budget cuts and concern for the future economic stability of the university system.

"Time and again Dr. Woodward has stepped



Chancellor Philip L. Dubois, Martha Woodward and Lisa Dubois are pictured with Chancellor Emeritus James Woodward at a reception prior to spring commencement.

in to support and stabilize key educational and cultural institutions during periods of change and economic instability," UNC Charlotte Board of Trustees Chairman Gene Johnson said in prepared remarks. "A dedicated public servant, he has demonstrated honesty, integrity and tremendous leadership in the quest to create a more vibrant, equitable society."

Woodward succeeded E.K. Fretwell as UNC Charlotte's third Chancellor in 1989. Under his leadership, UNC Charlotte evolved in dramatic fashion. Enrollment grew to more than 19,000 students, while the size, scope and depth of the university's programs and outreach expanded. The university solidified its mission as a research-intensive institution, adding a full complement of doctoral programs, research initiatives and expert faculty engaged in a wide variety of activities.

In addition, Woodward oversaw the creation of the Charlotte Research Institute; launched the \$100 million It Takes a Gift fundraising

campaign, the largest in the university's history; presided over the growth of UNC Charlotte's endowment from \$14 million to \$94.5 million; and led efforts to pass the \$3.1 billion N.C. bond bill, of which UNC Charlotte received \$190 million to construct nearly 1 million square feet of academic space.

Woodward is the recipient of numerous accolades and honors, including the Society of Women Engineers' 1989 Rodney D. Chipp Memorial Award for significantly contributing to the acceptance of women in the engineering field; the University of Alabama at Birmingham 1995 Distinguished Alumnus Award; the North Carolina Order of the Long Leaf Pine, 1995; an Honorary Doctor of Law degree from The University of Alabama at Birmingham, 1997; the Georgia Institute of Technology 1998 Distinguished Alumnus Award; the National Conference for Community and Justice 2002 Humanitarian Award; and the Leadership Charlotte 2003 Lifetime Achievement Award.

news briefs

GOLDWATER SCHOLAR A UNIVERSITY FIRST

Casey Rimland, a University biology and psychology honors student and C.C. Cameron Merit Scholarship recipient, recently received a Goldwater Scholarship, the first one ever awarded a UNC Charlotte student.

The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship provides up to \$7,500 per year for educational expenses to sophomores and juniors who intend to pursue

careers in mathematics, the natural sciences or engineering. The Goldwater Foundation seeks students who display intellectual curiosity and intensity and who possess potential for significant future contributions in their field.

Competition for the scholarship is intense. More than 1,000 students were nominated nationwide, with 275 ultimately awarded the scholarship this year. It is considered one of the most prestigious awards conferred upon undergraduates in these fields.

Only four other North Carolinians were chosen as Goldwater scholars — one each from Princeton, Duke, UNC Chapel Hill and N.C. State.

Rimland also spends time on humanitarian pursuits, working as a peer tutor, supplemental instruction leader and peer mentor through the University Center for Academic Excellence. She hopes to attend Wake Forest or Yale to pursue a combined M.D./Ph.D. and ultimately to conduct biomedical research and teach at an academic hospital.



Casey Rimland

Bequest Headlines Major Gifts To Education

In May, at a celebration of the College of Education's 40th anniversary, Chancellor Philip L. Dubois announced a \$2 million bequest, the largest single donation to the college ever.

The contribution and two other significant gifts are part of the Looking Forward Campaign, which runs through June 2013.

The record-setting gift was made from the estate of Nicholas Goudes, a Charlotte entrepreneur and philanthropist, to the Alma and Sharon Goudes Education Scholarship Fund. The bequest joins a previous \$1 million gift from Goudes to fund scholarships for UNC Charlotte students preparing for careers as teachers of mathematics or English. Since 1998, 76 students have been named Goudes Scholars at UNC Charlotte.

Nicholas Goudes, who died on April 5, 2010, was a native of Sparta, Greece and came to the United States in 1947, where he pursued a successful career in hospitality. With his wife, Alma, he founded the Sharon View County Club and served for 40 years as the club's proprietor.



Mary Lynne Calhoun



"Mr. Goudes chose to support future teachers out of a great love and respect for the teaching profession," said College of Education Dean Mary Lynne Calhoun, "and out of a clear understanding of how education can open doors of opportunity." Once when speaking to College of Education honor students, Goudes said, "I always say when a teacher enters the room, you should stand up!"

Two additional major gifts were announced at the 40th anniversary celebration. The Honorable Irwin Belk has made the lead gift to establish a \$1 million endowment to create the Carol Grotnes Belk Distinguished Professorship in Urban Education. This new professorship will focus on the Ph.D. in Curriculum & Instruction and provide leadership for the college's commitment to successful teaching and learning in urban settings.

The third gift is the Cato Teaching Discovery Mural, established through a \$300,000 gift from the Cato Corp. and its CEO, UNC Charlotte alumnus John Cato. The artwork will be an architectural mural in sculpted brick, to be installed next year outside the College of Education building.

The mural will feature images of the power of teaching and include elements of North Carolina's history and heritage, making it a destination for school children and other visitors. Donors who make a gift of \$1,000 or more may identify an outstanding teacher whose name will be inscribed on the mural.

Levine Scholars Selected, Prepare for Alaska

Sixteen leaders from high schools across the United States, including 12 from North Carolina, were named Levine Scholars at UNC Charlotte.

It is the second year for the prestigious merit scholarship program, which covers the cost of tuition and fees, housing and meals, books, a laptop computer and community experiences.

The 12 Levine Scholars from North Carolina are: Kevin Caldwell, Charlotte; Samantha Creasy, Clemmons; James Dicus IV, Lexington; Jacob Emerson, Gastonia; Kailey Filter, Matthews; Austin Halbert, Shelby; Bethany Hyde, Saluda; Callie Jamison, Hayesville; Matthew Kesler, Dallas; Patric King, Indian Trail; Elizabeth Koehler, Mooresville; and Kelsey Mongeau, Hampstead.

The other recipients come from three other states. They are Noelle Cornelio, Holmdel, N.J.; Chloe Rodengen, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Kevin Rodengen, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; and Anna Swartz, Fleetwood, Pa.

The Levine Scholars will spend 25 days of hiking and leadership training in Alaska's Talkeenta Mountains.

This year's recipients were selected through a lengthy nomination and interview process. High schools nominated more than 1,100 seniors from 18 states. "The response of top students from around the country continues to be outstanding," said Chancellor Philip L. Dubois.

The second group of Levine Scholars will take their place on campus in the fall 2011 semester.

The scholarships are made possible by philanthropists Leon and Sandra Levine, who committed \$9.3 million for the merit scholarship program, designed to develop community service leaders.



Kevin Caldwell



Samantha Creasy



James Dicus IV



Jacob Emerson



Kailey Filter



Austin Halbert



Bethany Hyde



Callie Jamison



Matthew Kesler



Patric King



Elizabeth Koehler



Kelsey Mongeau



Noelle Cornelio



Chloe Rodengen



Kevin Rodengen



Anna Swartz



UNC CHARLOTTE
The Levine Scholars Program

news briefs

FEY-YENSAN NAMED DEAN OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Nancy Fey-Yensan was selected as the new dean of the College of Health and Human Services. She succeeds Karen Schmaling, who stepped down in 2010.

Fey-Yensan comes from the University of Rhode Island, where she served as associate dean of the College of Human Science and Services and professor of Nutrition and Food Science. She will begin her new post on August 1.

Known for exceptional leadership qualities, she was brought to the College of Human Science and Services from the College of Environment and Life Sciences, where she was associate director for Land Grant Programs.



Nancy Fey-Yensan

Fey-Yensan began her career in chemosensory research, working on an interdisciplinary team to understand food behavior in people with sensory anomalies. In her role as a nutrition researcher, she has served as the panel manager for the USDA's National Research Initiative on Human Nutrition and Obesity and currently serves in that same role for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE HOSTS CHINESE DELEGATION

Hosted by Paul Friday and Qingli Meng of the Department of Criminal Justice's China Center, a delegation of law professors and prosecutors from Southwest University of Political Science and Law in Chongqing, China, visited UNC Charlotte in early April as part of a comprehensive training program for judges and prosecutors in juvenile justice.

UNC Charlotte signed an agreement with the Chinese law school in 2010 that enables both universities to collaborate

Trail Named to Honor Shaw

The Toby Creek Greenway now extends through the UNC Charlotte campus, with the section named for former Board of Trustees Chair Ruth Shaw. In early May, Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation, along with Catawba Lands Conservancy, invited the public to the opening celebration of the Ruth G. Shaw Trail. It connects the 7.1 mile-long Mallard Creek/Clark's Creek Greenway to the campus.

Shaw is a longtime city civic and business leader who is the founding chair of the governing board of the Carolina Thread Trail, an interconnected trail system in the greater Charlotte region. The Catawba Lands Conservancy is overseeing the trail's development.

The Toby Creek Greenway was funded by a \$1.25 million grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The greenway stretches two miles and links neighborhoods in the University area to the UNC Charlotte campus, allowing students, faculty and staff to walk or ride bikes to the University. Neighborhoods adjoining this greenway system include Fairlea, Wellington, Winchester, Mallard Ridge, Radbourne, Colvard Park, Mallard Trace and Brookstone. Also connected is the University Research Park.



in areas such as criminology, criminal law and criminal justice. Last year they jointly sponsored an international conference on drugs and drug control in China.

China is in the process of major legal reform and is looking to both Europe and the United States for models, said Friday, an internationally recognized scholar in criminal justice. "The purpose of this is to highlight to the Chinese how we respond to juvenile delinquency and juvenile drug addiction by using alternative measures to jail and a treatment court," he said.

The China Center is the only U.S.-China initiative that focuses specifically on social and criminal justice research and exchange. SWUPL is considered the most prestigious criminal law school in China. More than 70 percent of judges and prosecutors in China completed study at SWUPL.

Friday also arranged for the group to meet senior officials in the Justice Department in Washington, as well as at the American Bar Association, which has a special initiative on

the Rule of Law in China.

In Charlotte, the Chinese delegation had series of training seminars on underlying values in the American criminal justice system and the structure of American courts. During their campus visit, they had lunch with Provost Joan Lorden and other University administrators.

INTERNATIONAL HALL OF FAME DRAFTS NURSING'S NIES

Mary Nies, Carol Grotnes Belk Endowed Chair in Nursing, will be inducted into the International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame.

"Dr. Nies' selection into the Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame by Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing is a significant acknowledgement of her exceptional research," said Jane Neese, interim dean of the College of Health and Human Services.

Through funding from the National Institute of Health and other foundations, Nies has focused on health promotion across the lifespan for vulnerable populations. She

is the author of the textbook “Community/Public Health Nursing” and a member of Sigma Xi Scientific Research Honor Society. In addition, Nies is a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and the Academy of Health Behavior.



Mary Nies

Nies will be one of 15 honorees recognized during the Sigma Theta Tau's 22nd International Nursing Research Congress in July. Sigma Theta Tau International, the honor society of nursing, is a nonprofit organization; its mission is to “support the learning, knowledge and professional development of nurses committed to making a difference in health worldwide.”

Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame inductees are selected based upon their demonstrated long-term impact as nurse researchers and their funded program of research on patient/family outcomes, community wellness and/or health care policy nationally and/or internationally; their influence as a mentor/role model for students, faculty and practicing nurses; and their recognition as scholars/leaders in research nationally and/or internationally.

U.S. NEWS RECOGNIZES TOP GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Several University graduate programs rank among the top in the nation in the 2012 edition of U.S. News and World Report's Best Graduate Schools.

The latest rankings are further recognition of the emerging prowess of UNC Charlotte's graduate programs. Counseling, special education and nursing anesthesia all ranked in the top 25 in their specialty fields, with the Belk College of Business's part-time master's in business administration program ranked at No. 59, and the College of Health and Human Services' Master of Health Administration program at No. 41.

The College of Education ranked as one of the Best Education Schools, reflecting

its commitment to serving education professionals. Other ranked programs include civil, electrical and mechanical engineering; computer science; math; social work; public affairs; nursing, health-care management; and the biological sciences.

Prospective students frequently use the U.S. News rankings when deciding where to pursue their graduate education. Applicants also seek programs that meet their needs related to curriculum, advising, research, service, mentoring and career development.

STUDENTS ELECT GOVERNMENT OFFICERS FOR 2011-12

After nearly four weeks of campaigning and two days of elections, Dave Craven and Amanda Markham were named UNC Charlotte's 2011-12 student body president and vice president in late March.

“We are ready to settle down and fight for the university for next year — we've got a lot of good things lined up,” said Craven in a statement to NinerOnline.com shortly after the election. “I think building the community and getting everyone back involved in student

government and the University is what's going to be crucial.”

Campaigning on the slogan “Fight for Charlotte,” Craven said the slogan “means fighting for this University, a University that I have spent three years at and I have a passionate love for. We are really going to take the heart and fundamentals of this university and go on a large scale with the state of North Carolina and really bring this University out and showcase the greatness we have.”

When asked what Markham most wanted to achieve from the platform, she replied, “Community, it's a big deal for me.”

The election marked a record voter turnout of 13.86 percent, or 3,294 voters, almost doubling the record turnout achieved in the 2010-11 elections.



Dave Craven

Behold: “Spirit of Discovery”

UNC Charlotte's impressive collection of public artworks increased with the dedication in June of “Spirit of Discovery” located in the Bioinformatics Building.

Commissioned by Irwin “Ike” Belk in honor of his wife, “Spirit of Discovery” is an abstract work designed not only for its location in the Bioinformatics Building but to reflect the research and scholarship taking place in the facility.

“To me, it (the sculpture) has an organic look, perhaps suggesting a living cell,” said Larry Mays, chair of bioinformatics and genomics. “Another sphere, partially hidden inside the outer one, suggests a certain internal complexity as well.”

The sculpture's outer elements are representative of physical tools of exploration, Mays added. “So this piece seems particularly appropriate for what we do here every day. We are testing, probing, measuring and manipulating the very essence of life using the best tools we have. We realize that these tools are crude and imperfect, but as they are improved, the complexity of our subject, initially hidden, becomes more apparent. Greenville artists Hanna Jubran and Jodi Hollnagel-Jubran created “Spirit of Discovery.”



Masters of Living

Couple Honored for Servant Leadership

By Lisa A. Patterson

Photo by Wade Bruton

James G. “Jim” Babb and Mary Lou Babb have made enormous contributions to the educational, cultural and charitable institutions in our community. Their compassion, vision, and generosity have touched the lives of thousands of Charlotteans in arenas including the arts, education, business and social services. At a May ceremony, Jim and Mary Lou Babb became the first couple to be honored with the UNC Charlotte Distinguished Service Award.

“Jim and Mary Lou Babb do not seek accolades. They are motivated instead by a desire to leave their community better off than they found it,” says UNC Charlotte Chancellor Philip L. Dubois. “Their tireless efforts have helped make our community and this University greater. Through their careers and volunteerism, they have touched countless lives.”

As a young G.I. in 1955, Jim Babb landed a position writing press releases for \$65 a week at WBTV in Charlotte. He later moved on to a job selling advertising for WBT Radio. He quickly rose through the ranks of the radio station, and then the TV station before being named president and CEO of Jefferson-Pilot Communications’ television



Jim and Mary Lou Babb became the first couple to receive UNC Charlotte’s Distinguished Service Award. They are pictured with Board of Trustees Chair Gene Johnson (far left) and Chancellor Dubois (far right).

and radio operations. Jim left Jefferson-Pilot in 1991 to serve as chairman, president and CEO of Outlet Communications, Inc. He is currently executive vice president and chief operating officer of Bahakel Communications, Ltd.

In 1960 Jim married Mary Lou Davis. Active in numerous community activities, Mary Lou has served in key leadership positions benefiting educational, cultural and social service organizations throughout the Charlotte community. Mary Lou is a former chair of the board of trustees of the Mint Museum of Art and was appointed interim director of the museum during a time of leadership transition. She also co-founded The Women’s Impact Fund in 2003, which helps women reach their

monetary giving potential while meeting community needs.

Both Jim and Mary Lou have led efforts to ensure equity and access to education in the Charlotte public schools and at institutions of higher education in the region. In addition, they have contributed to the academic and athletic life of UNC Charlotte. Mary Lou was the first chair of the Let Me Play women’s athletics fundraising event, and Jim produced the first telecast of a UNC Charlotte basketball game. He also chaired the alumni division of the University’s first Capital Campaign.

In tandem with success in business and dedication to service, Jim and Mary Lou find great personal satisfaction in family. The couple enjoys spending time with their five grown children and six grandchildren.

“The master in the art of living... simply pursues his vision of excellence at whatever he does...”

James A. Michener

Fondness and Awe

Dan Morrill has witnessed 48 years of transformation

By Allison Reid

“The landscape of academia is going through a seismic shift in the way we teach and distribute information.”

History professor Dan Morrill, UNC Charlotte's longest-serving faculty member, is entering phased retirement at the end of the 2010-11 school year. The 1970 Bank of America Teaching Award winner was one of the original faculty members recruited by UNC Charlotte founder Bonnie Cone.

This summer, Morrill will celebrate 48 years of teaching at UNC Charlotte, and he says he looks back on his tenure here with fondness and awe at how much the university has changed since his first days.

“When I came here there were fewer than 1,000 students and 100 professors,” says Morrill.



Dan Morrill in 1969



Dan Morrill, a well-known historian, is one of the original faculty members recruited by UNC Charlotte founder Bonnie Cone.

“Bonnie Cone’s leadership was so personal, she even selected the silverware for the cafeteria.”

While Morrill clearly enjoyed the intimate atmosphere of the University in its early days, he also recognizes the benefits of the larger institution it has become.

“When I first started here, I had six colleagues in the history department,” he says. “Now there are about 30 faculty members in our department, and we are a much more diverse group, which is a good thing.”

Invited to speak at UNC Charlotte’s 60th anniversary celebration in 2006, Morrill described the University’s founding as the seminal event in the history of Charlotte. And he should know. In addition to his teaching and research responsibilities at UNC Charlotte, Morrill has become something of the “City Historian,” and he is often called upon to speak or consult about various aspects of Charlotte’s history. He serves as consulting director of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission.

Morrill, self-described as a “jack of all trades,” was trained in modern European

history and teaches courses in Russian history and the history of war. In the 1970s, when he started becoming more active in historic preservation, he also began researching, writing and narrating local historical documentaries, many for WTVI, Charlotte’s PBS affiliate. He is now filming, editing and producing his own documentaries, including a recent one on the Mann Gulch fire of 1949, in which a young Charlotte man was killed while working as a smoke jumper.

Deeply committed to historic preservation as both a scholar and activist, Morrill teaches as part of UNC Charlotte’s new Public History concentration within the graduate history program. His latest achievement has been to open a high-tech video lab, filled with the latest digital filming and editing hardware and software. Morrill is no stranger to this new technology and teaches it as part of a course on documentary video.

Morrill enjoys talking about the game-changing effects of technology as much as he likes talking about the past, and it is clear that he possesses a unique combination of historical memory and technological savvy. He is grateful for his time here, he says, but doesn’t waste much time looking back and is instead looking forward. He is looking forward to continuing his documentary and consulting work, and he is looking forward to observing how the University evolves. What is his view of UNC Charlotte’s future?

“The landscape of academia is going through a seismic shift in the way we teach and distribute information,” says Morrill. “The successful University will adjust to these new realities and take advantage of the latest technology to educate our students.”

Allison Reid is the director of communications for the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

Social Studies SQUEEZE

By Lisa A. Patterson

Photo by Wade Bruton



In America's elementary and middle schools, the subject of social studies has been marginalized. UNC Charlotte researchers (from left) Tina Heafner, Tracy Rock, Amy Good, and Paul Fitchett have studied this phenomenon and its consequences. When social studies is squeezed out of the curriculum, democracy suffers, they argue.

University researchers examine the subject's decline in America's schools

School-age children are introduced to a wide-variety of educational material ranging from mathematics to science. But all subjects are not created equal — or rather, they're not given equal time in the classroom.

Social studies, which encompasses disciplines including history, government, anthropology, economics and geography, get short shrift in American elementary and middle schools.

UNC Charlotte education professors are examining the roles national and state educational policy and teacher perceptions play in the decline of social studies education.

"People in the community need to be aware of what their students are and aren't getting," says Tina Heafner, associate professor of social studies education. "We have to address a generation of students that are growing up with a minimum understanding of social studies."

The social studies squeeze was documented in the Center on Educational Policy's 2007 study of elementary instructional time following the implementation of the national No Child Left Behind legislation. The study indicated that math and literacy instruction increased an average of 141 additional minutes of class time per week, whereas social studies and science instruction declined an average of 75 to 90 minutes.

A nationwide study from Brown University's Center on Education Policy in 2008 suggested that between 1999 and 2004, elementary reading instruction gained approximately 40 minutes per week while social studies instruction lost 17 minutes. The report emphasized the ramifications of test-centered legislation by documenting a 32 percent decrease in instructional time for social studies due to district-based decisions to increase instructional time for English language arts and mathematics.

DECLINE LINKED TO LACK OF TESTING

Outside of these reports, very little research has been published on the issue. That's where UNC Charlotte researchers Heafner, Paul Fitchett, assistant professor of social studies education; Tracy Rock, associate professor of elementary education; and Amy Good, associate professor of elementary education, come in. To further document the declining role of social studies, they conducted a series of research studies that highlight the ramifications of accountability, high-stakes testing and No Child Left Behind.

In conjunction with researchers from five other North Carolina universities, the group conducted a five-year, statewide study to evaluate the impact of NCLB and high-stakes accountability on social studies instruction in the elementary grades. During the study, instruction time in social studies was reduced almost by half. Overall, their findings indicate that if a content area is not tested, while other areas are, that content area will be devalued and marginalized.

In North Carolina this could be very bad news for social studies — the subject is not tested in elementary and middle school, and state mandates recently ended testing in civics, economics and history in high school.

Fitchett and Heafner wanted to find out whether North Carolina was an anomaly. They gathered data that clearly indicates North Carolina is not alone — the decline is a nationwide phenomenon.

The researchers say the decline began in the late 1980s with the movement to standardize curriculum.

"Standards and associated testing with the standards created a climate where teachers are facing a constricted workplace environment," Fitchett says. "They don't feel they have the autonomy to decide how to structure the day."

Heafner notes that teachers' perceptions coupled with whether a subject is tested

reinforces a hierarchy of subjects in the minds of students. "In history, which is not tested, the students don't take the work as seriously as they take the work in a 'sacred subject' such as math."

WHY SAVE SOCIAL STUDIES?

As the body of literature on the social studies squeeze grows, so does the literature about the importance of social studies and why it must be preserved and strengthened in America's schools.

Without a robust social studies curriculum in elementary and middle-school grades, students don't have the requisite skills to understand the subjects they encounter in high school; thus, the students and their teachers are set up to fail.

Moreover, some argue that the preservation of democracy could be at stake if something is not done to elevate the status of social studies in our schools. A democracy relies on citizens to understand and evaluate information about complex domestic and international issues, and react accordingly. High quality social studies instruction helps students develop these skills, say social studies proponents.

In the current environment, teacher candidates rarely witness social studies education in action when they enter elementary and middle-school settings to observe and work with seasoned teachers. The UNC Charlotte group says they are beginning to witness the effects of the decline in their own classrooms as the students they prepare to become tomorrow's educators come to them with less knowledge of social studies than previous generations of students.

Advocates for social studies education are raising concerns with lawmakers during a time of budget constraints and intense partisanship, but their cause is worthy and change is possible, they say.

UNC Charlotte researchers have done a great deal to advance the cause, providing data to inform future policy decisions. They agree that as long as standardized tests exist, social studies should be tested just like any other subject, and teachers should be granted the time to plan engaging lessons and to take advantage of professional development opportunities to hone their skills in the content area.

As teacher educators, the researchers continue to impart the value of social studies to their students and work with them to develop the skills they will need to create dynamic lessons for American citizens of tomorrow.

Lisa A. Patterson is senior writer in the Office of Public Relations.



Unexpected Wall Streeter

Derrick Smith found his calling at UNC Charlotte

By Arthur O. Murray



Photo by Craig Ramsey

Derrick Smith earned a bachelor's in finance from UNC Charlotte's Belk College of Business and an M.B.A. at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School. He is pictured at an alumni awards event with (from left) Greg Ross, Alumni Association president; Chancellor Dubois and Steve Ott, dean of the Belk College of Business.

When it came to his college career, Derrick Smith knew two things. First, he wanted to be an architect. "That's what I grew up wanting to be. That's all I ever imagined."

And he didn't just imagine it. Smith, who was born and raised in Columbia, S.C., the son of Nathaniel and Rosa Smith, acted on his dream. His father worked for the city housing authority, while his mother was employed in the school system. Smith had worked at local firms during the summer to get a taste of the business. He'd even done

some small-scale drawings on the side.

The other thing he knew about college was this: If he got accepted into its College of Architecture, he wanted to go to UNC Charlotte. But he found out "you have to be admitted to the University first and then to the College of Architecture. I had narrowed my choices down to two," he says. That was before he went to interview at the school in 1996.

Smith loved the people and the facilities. "I said, 'If I get in, this is where I want to go.'"

He did get accepted, but something funny

happened along the way. Smith became enamored of finance. After graduating with a degree in that field in 2000, he landed in New York, where he spent a couple of years as an analyst in structured equity derivatives sales for Lehman Brothers. In 2002, he left for Natixis Capital Markets, also in New York. He first was an associate in its structured equity derivative sales before being promoted in 2005 to vice president.

Smith, who earned a master's in business administration in 2008 from the prestigious

Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, left Natixis in 2009 to attend New York University's Schack Institute of Real Estate.

The scandals in high finance didn't run him off. "The industry was not full of people like him (Bernie Madoff)," Smith says. "Most of the people that I've come across in my career have been very honest and ethical who did the right thing for the firm, the community and the client. People like Madoff were definitely the exception."

Smith expects to receive his graduate certificate in real estate in August. All of which will, in a way, bring him back full circle to architecture.

But that's getting ahead of the story. First, it's important to understand how — and why — he changed his focus in the first place.

LIFE-CHANGING INTERNSHIP

It happened after his freshman year. "It was a very rewarding experience," Smith says. He had received a C.C. Cameron Scholarship to attend the University. The scholarship was sponsored by what was then First Union Corp., and Smith had the opportunity to intern at the bank over the summer.

"There was always a part of me that was curious about how the markets worked. Since it didn't hurt anything to work in (First Union's) brokerage for the summer, I figured that at a minimum I should be able to walk away with knowledge of how the stock market really worked. As it turned out, it changed my career path."

He didn't make the change lightly. "I talked with a lot of people, professors in both architecture and business, my parents, finance veterans and people in the architecture field. I got as much knowledge from seasoned people as I possibly could. Ultimately, I believed it was in my best interest to change. A lot of people were surprised."

Through it all, he says, he had the support of his family. "My parents were a major source of support for me through college. They were always there for me and supported me 100 percent, especially through the process of changing majors and career paths."

Among the other people who helped him at UNC Charlotte was then-chancellor James H. Woodward. Smith had met Woodward primarily because of his scholarship. "I was able to build a relationship with him," Smith says. "That happened very early on. I stayed in touch with him."

Smith also is thankful for the help he got

"My parents were a major source of support for me through college. They were always there for me and supported me 100 percent, especially through the process of changing majors and career paths."

from Dr. Ben Nunnally at the Belk College of Business. "He was my very first finance professor. Since I was in the process of changing majors, I only had a minimum number of business courses under my belt when I got to his class. He was very, very helpful in giving me an insider's look at the entire world of finance. I'm still in touch with him today."

Earlier this year, he returned to campus and was struck by its growth. "In freshman year, I remember many sleepless nights working on architectural projects," he says. "I'd walk back and forth across campus. But it was much smaller then than now."

Size isn't the only change he noticed. "Back then, campus life didn't exist on weekends. It was very much a weekday campus," Smith recalls. "Come Friday afternoon, a lot of people got out of town. But now it seems like the campus has shed its commuter label."

'PUT UP OR SHUT UP'

One thing he hasn't shed is a lesson — a saying really — that he picked up on campus. It came from Michael Swisher, an associate professor in the College of Architecture. "His philosophy was, 'Put up and shut up.' What he meant was that your design should speak for itself. If you had to do a lot of explaining, then you didn't do a good job of designing. I've carried that on in professional life. I try to make sure my work speaks for itself."

One other thing he gained from UNC Charlotte was his wife, Abby, who also graduated from the University in 2000. "We met in sophomore year, and we were friends for some time and never really thought about dating." That changed in the spring of their senior year. As it turned out, both would move to New York after graduation: He was going to work for Lehman Brothers, while she had been accepted for graduate school at Columbia University. "We said, 'We'll see what happens,'" he remembers.

About four years later, they got engaged. And that had a UNC Charlotte connection, too. Smith took her back to the University — he told her it was for an alumni banquet. Instead, they went to his old dorm room in what was called Poplar Hall. That's where he asked her to marry him. "She had no clue. I surprised her," he recalls. "A friend was completely in on the plan and helped get things organized in Charlotte." They got married in 2005 and have a 2-year-old son, Cameron.

As for the renewed interest in architecture, it came while he was finishing his master's in business. "I discovered I never really lost my passion for architecture and physical property," Smith says. That's when he decided to pursue a graduate real estate education. "It would be a good way to leverage my financial background into a career in real estate," he says.

His goal now is to be an investor/owner in commercial real estate. "It's something I can pass down to my son," he says.

The other legacy he wants to provide is support for his alma mater. Since 2009, he has served on the Alumni Advisory Council of the Belk College of Business, participating regularly from his home in council meetings. "I wanted to find a way to increase my involvement and my ties. The challenge with being so passionate about the University and so far away is it's much more difficult to stay connected."

It's a challenge Smith's willing to continue taking. "Because of the support I received from the University, especially the financial support to attend it, I feel so indebted and really want to give back as much as possible. Now that I've completed college and am in the position to help others, I feel it's the right thing to do."

Arthur O. Murray is a Charlotte-area freelance writer.

Tiny Secrets **BIG** IMPACT

By James Hathaway

Photo by Wade Bruton



Melanie Spencer and Anthony Fodor are using metagenomics as part of their study into how bacteria in the human gut may affect liver disease.

UNC Charlotte researchers discover important links between gut bacteria, liver disease

Often, the more we learn about biology, the better we can treat disease — but the more complicated our understanding of disease itself becomes.

For example, you may know that you have trillions of bacteria living inside you, including the hundreds or thousands of species of friendly ones living peacefully in your gut, helping you digest food. But you may not know that the complex demographics — the ecology of it all, so to speak — of the rich and complex mob of organisms might be a major factor in whether or not you are the one-out-of-three people who might develop a major liver disease.

What? You don't know anything about your intestinal bacteria, not to mention how they affect your health? Don't feel bad — few if any people do. Some UNC Charlotte researchers are working hard to change all that, but (as people say on Facebook) — it's complicated.

INVISIBLE FRIENDS, ENEMIES

The lab of UNC bioinformatics

researcher Anthony Fodor recently announced a new finding that shows a strong relationship between complex microbial ecologies in human intestines and the common but serious medical condition known as fatty liver.

While this discovery may ultimately have a major impact on treating a common and important human disease, it also illustrates the paradox that recent research uncovering hidden biology of our bodies is actually making the goal of managing human health much more complicated.

First of all, though the discovery of a relationship between microbes in the intestines is puzzling news in itself, consider the fact that the bugs mysteriously connected to the liver ailment are themselves still pretty mysterious.

From studies of the human genome (“genomic” studies), we have learned that there is a mind-boggling diversity of benign bacteria in all of our intestines and that these populations can also vary almost infinitely from one human being to the next. Yet, this is very recent news. Most microbes, whether inside us or not, are surprisingly new to science, or are still completely unknown.

A little more than a decade ago, only a few thousand species of bacteria had been identified globally, though we now know that there may be that many species in a single human body. We were ignorant about bacteria because the only way to conclusively identify most bacteria and other simple-celled microbes was to look at their genes, and the only way to do that was to grow large, homogeneous colonies of them (to “culture” them) so that enough pure genetic material was available to test. And culturing bacteria

was a major stumbling block because most bacteria are amazingly fussy in what they eat and those dietary needs were — you guessed it — unknown.

Then along came “metagenomics,” a new field of genomic research that offered new tools to explore the vast and mysterious microbial world. Researchers like Fodor use metagenomics to look at genetic material taken from an environmental sample (rather than from an individual organism) and to detect the presence of different organisms within the sample, even though genomes of those organisms may be still unknown.

In particular, metagenomics uses a piece of genetic material (a gene known as 16S ribosomal RNA) that is known to be fundamentally similar in all cellular life but that also shows key differences between different species. By analyzing the variety of this one gene present in a sample, metagenomics researchers can tell how many different species (generally, this means bacteria) are present in a sample and, to some degree, what classification those species belong to.

The results are often surprising. An early test a decade ago found about three times more species in a small spoonful of dirt than were known to all of science at that time. Studies of the human body have found different populations living on the skin of the right elbow than on the skin of the left. Bacteria living in the human gut, which were once assumed to be a group of just a few species and similar from person to person, were found to make up large, complicated, interdependent ecosystems that are more distinct from person to person than fingerprints, even within the same family.

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“What we expected we might find would be that when we put the patients on exactly the same diets, everyone’s gut microbe mixture would begin to look similar, with the microbial communities converging. It did not happen – everybody was clearly individual throughout the entire study.”

MICROBES: UP TO SOMETHING

If the variety of bacteria inside us comes as a surprise, perhaps an even bigger surprise awaits. The question is, what exactly are they all doing in there?

We know that the kind of food we eat is important to our health and we know that having the right bacteria in our intestines is important in digesting our food properly, but we still do not know how our individual variations in gut bacteria might influence more specific health issues. In particular, we do not know how these bacteria influence how the substances we eat affect our organ systems.

In the condition known as fatty liver, fat deposits build up in the liver, with potentially serious health consequences for nearly a third of the American population. Fatty liver can be caused by alcohol abuse, obesity, hormonal changes and/or diabetes. Recent work has suggested that diet is also important in developing the condition, with strong indications that a deficiency in the essential nutrient choline might be partially involved in its occurrence. Choline deficiency also implicates genetics, since many people lack the genes to efficiently make choline internally.

Now, a new bioinformatics finding in Fodor’s lab has shown that the abundance or scarcity of certain types of bacteria in the gut may also help predict susceptibility to non-alcoholic fatty liver. The implication of the finding is that these groups of bacteria may be influencing the body’s ability to properly use the choline available in food, though the study does not examine the

specific metabolic activity of the bacteria involved.

In a metagenomic analysis of the microbial communities living in the intestinal tracts of 15 female patients participating in a study of the effects on liver condition from a choline-depleted diet, Fodor and his colleagues found a strong correlation between the relative abundance of two specific classes of bacteria and the development of fatty liver.

A report on the finding appears in the current issue of the journal *Gastroenterology*.

“Certain bacterial populations correlated very strongly with increased fat in the liver during a restricted choline diet,” said Melanie Spencer, a doctoral student studying with Fodor in UNC Charlotte’s new bioinformatics Ph.D. program and the lead author on the paper. “To us, it’s an amazing result because you just don’t see this clear a correlation in biological experiments in humans very often.”

The authors on the paper are Spencer, Fodor, Timothy Hamp and Robert Reid from the department of bioinformatics and genomics at UNC Charlotte, as well as Steven Zeisel and Leslie Fischer from the department of nutrition at UNC Chapel Hill.

ANALYZING GUT BACTERIA

Using metagenomics, the researchers analyzed the genomes of the patients’ gut bacteria before, during and after the patients were put on a choline-deficient diet.

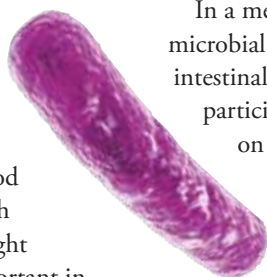
Because all patients consumed identical diets during the study, the researchers predicted that the initially distinct and complex communities of microbes in the patients’ intestinal tracts would react by becoming less distinct from each other. The researchers found instead that, though each of the patients’ bacterial communities did change a bit, each individual’s community still remained distinctive throughout the study.

“What we expected we might find would be that when we put the patients on exactly the same diets, everyone’s gut microbe mixture would begin to look similar, with the microbial communities converging. It did not happen — everybody was clearly individual throughout the entire study,” Spencer noted.

“So we also looked at how the patients’ microbes actually changed in pattern, even though they remained distinct from each other,” she said. “The patterns of change were very interesting. Some of the patterns were very distinct in themselves.”

The researchers noticed that among the numerous classes of bacteria present in each patient, variations in the populations of two particular groups seemed to correspond with variations among patients in the degree to which they developed a fatty liver during the period of dietary choline depletion. These disease-linked populations belonged to two special classes of bacteria — the Gammaproteobacteria and the Erysipelotrichi.

“Those patients with the highest abundance of Gammaproteobacteria at the beginning of the study seemed to have the lowest fatty liver development. The ones



with the least developed the most fatty liver,” Spencer observed. “*Erysipelotrichi* showed exactly the opposite association, though this relationship was not quite as strong. So there seemed to be change going on in opposite directions.”

In other words, when numbers of one bacterial group went up, the incidence of fatty liver went down — the bacteria seemed to be connected to controlling fatty liver. When numbers of the other bacterial group went up, the incidence of fatty liver increased — these bacteria seemed to be connected to the development of fatty liver.

When the trends of Gammaproteobacteria abundance and *Erysipelotrichi* scarcity were combined and related to fatty liver development, the relationship became even stronger. The trends in the bacterial populations seemed to either strengthen or counter each other’s fatty liver—connected effect, thus increasing the likelihood that the bacteria were somehow related to the disease.

Finally, the researchers factored in individual genetic variations in the patients that affect internal production of the nutrient choline, expecting that should explain why some patients developed fatty liver and others did not. Surprisingly, the results showed that each person’s genetics did not entirely account for their fatty liver outcome.

When the researchers modified the analysis to include the abundances of the two bacterial groups and each individual’s genetics, the correlation between fatty liver development and these three factors

was nearly perfect. Further mathematical tests were performed to show that the correlations were not likely to be an artificial result of some bias hidden in the analysis.

“There was some concern that we were ‘over-fitting’ the model,” Spencer said, “so we tested it out and ran a million permutations, altering the bug abundance and subject association, to see if we could identify how many actually showed a higher correlation by chance. What we found is that the p values (measures for statistical significance) still held up. We can have a lot of confidence in the result.”

In other words, the statistical evidence for the connection between Gammaproteobacteria and *Erysipelotrichi* abundance or scarcity in the gut and the incidence of fatty liver were very strong. The bacteria seem to be having an influence that no one ever expected them to have on an organ far from where they live.



DEBATING THE NEXT STEP

The big question that remains for the team is why the two bacterial populations correlate so strongly to the development of fatty liver. Fodor sees a possible explanation, while warning against drawing specific conclusions without further study.

“We cannot yet assign cause and effect, but it implies that some bacteria are doing something that is making it easier for people to deal with a choline deficiency and for the liver to metabolize fat.”

Conversely, the bacteria whose high population levels correlate with disease may

be somehow removing available forms of choline from digested food. Fodor explains that further study will be needed to answer those questions.

“We’re debating what the next step is,” he said. “In some ways, this is a very specialized experiment because we are inducing fatty liver in a very specific way. In the general population, fatty liver is induced in many, many ways and not everyone who has fatty liver has low choline.

“It’s probably like Alzheimer’s or cancer, where there are many different causes for a disease that displays a common phenotype,” Fodor continued. “More research will be required to determine the extent to which bacterial populations play a role in fatty liver development in the general population, but our results strongly suggest that there may be a link in some people.”

Fodor and his lab continue to explore links between the unique characteristics of thriving, complex ecosystems we each have within us and the myriad of diseases that occasionally afflict us. Like the microbes themselves, the possible relationships are both still profoundly mysterious and bewildering in their potential complexity.

It’s a research effort that is just beginning, with enormous questions left to answer. That, of course, makes the scientists very happy — if not the rest of us who long for simple, clear explanations for everything that ails us. Science is getting there, but it’s going to be, well, complicated.



James Hathaway is research communication manager in the Division of Academic Affairs.

Most microbes, whether inside us or not, are surprisingly new to science, or are still completely unknown.



Cara Consuegra Named Women's Basketball Coach

Academic All-Big Ten selection who earned CoSIDA Academic All-District honors in 2001. Following college, she played one season (2001) for the WNBA's Marquette assistant coach and former University of Iowa All-Big Ten standout Cara Consuegra (Con-SWAY-gruh) is the 49ers new head women's basketball coach.

Named in late April, Consuegra is the eighth head coach in the 36-year history of the 49ers women's basketball program.

She takes over a program that has made a school-record nine straight postseason tournament appearances and returns three starters and 10 letter winners off a team that won a school-record 27 games and reached the WNIT Final Four this season. Consuegra replaces Karen Aston, who resigned earlier this month.

"I am thrilled that Cara has accepted our offer to be the 49ers women's basketball coach," said 49ers Athletic Director Judy Rose. "We had tremendous interest in this job from all over the country — which speaks to the quality of the program and the respect that people have for our

university. I am confident that Cara's knowledge and passion for the game will not only sustain the success that we have experienced but will take our program to new heights."

Consuegra has spent the past seven years as a member of the Marquette University coaching staff where she helped the Golden Eagles win 145 games and reach postseason play each season.

"I am honored and humbled to have the opportunity to lead the Charlotte 49ers women's basketball program," Consuegra said. "I want to thank Chancellor Dubois, Judy Rose and the entire athletic administration for

she spent three years as the director of basketball operations (2001-04) at Penn State.

Before coaching, she enjoyed a stellar playing career (1997-2001) at the University of Iowa. As a senior, she earned honorable mention All-America honors and was named first-team All-Big Ten. She also was the Most Outstanding Player of the 2001 Big Ten Tournament.

A native of Mount Airy, Md., Consuegra holds the Iowa single-season (191 in 2000-01) and career (576) assists records. When she graduated from Iowa she was one of only 13 players in Big Ten history to score 1,000 points and record 500 assists in their career.

Consuegra graduated in 2001 with honors in Sports, Health and Leisure Studies. She was a three-time Utah Starzz.

GOLFERS WIN 6TH STRAIGHT, SAJEVIC CELEBRATED

With the Atlantic 10 Championship at stake on the final holes, Charlotte fended off rallies from Xavier and Richmond to capture a league-record sixth straight conference golf title.

With the victory at Florida's Mission Inn Resort & Club, Charlotte earned a school-record seventh straight NCAA Tournament berth.

In the neck-and-neck finish, Charlotte got birdies from Andy Sajevic on the 16th and 17th holes and one from Olafur Loftsson on the 18th hole to post a team score of two-under par over the final three holes, pulling out the five-stroke victory. Sajevic, Loftsson and Will Golden earned all-Atlantic 10 honors.

The conference also named Sajevic the league's Golf Student-Athlete of the Year. He, Golden and junior Rafael Guerrero also made the six-player A-10 all-Academic Team.

DARIUS LAW NAMED NAT'L SCHOLARSHIP FINALIST

Darius Law, one of a handful of Charlotte student-athletes who have earned both ESPN the Magazine Academic all-America honors and NCAA all-America honors, was one of three



believing in me and giving me this tremendous opportunity. I am eager and excited to build on the great tradition the women's basketball program has at Charlotte."

One of Consuegra's main responsibilities at Marquette was overseeing the development of the Golden Eagles' guards. She worked closely with 2011 WNBA draft pick and first-team All-Big East selection Angel Robinson, 2011 second-team All-Big East selection Tatiyana McMorris, 2009 All-American and two-time first-team All-Big East selection Krystal Ellis and Nancy Lieberman Award finalist Carolyn Kieger.

She also served as the Golden Eagles' recruiting coordinator and helped bring in consistently top-tier recruiting classes, including several nationally ranked players.

Before joining the Marquette coaching staff,



Cara Consuegra and Judy Rose



Darius Law

national finalists for the NCAA's prestigious Walter Byers Postgraduate Scholarship.

Law is the first 49ers student-athlete to be named a finalist for the award. The winner was David Gatz, a swimmer at Ohio Wesleyan University.

A senior 4.0 student in business management, Law is considering attending law school after graduation. He recently won the University's Humanitarian Award (see page X).

At the University, he won 22 Atlantic 10 track and field event championships, helped the 49ers to four league titles, earned all-America honors in the 400 meters at the 2010 NCAA Indoor Championships and won A-10 Track Athlete of the Year honors four times.

Academically, he owns a 4.0 GPA, has been named the A-10 Scholar-Athlete of the Year in track and field four times and earned Academic all-America honors twice. He was a first team academic all-America in 2010.

Law also has been an active campus leader. He served as president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, overseeing, in particular, the effort to raise funds and collect shoes for Samaritan's Feet. He also has been active in Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity.

FEMALE TRACKSTERS TAKE FIRST, MEN COME IN SECOND

The 49er women's track and field squad won its sixth conference meet in seven years, as the Charlotte track and field squads produced 15 individual championships in early May to close out the 2011 Atlantic 10 Outdoor Championships at the Irwin Belk Track.

The women's squad totaled 169.5 points to run away with the women's team race, while the men's squad recorded 176.5 points

to place second to Rhode Island. Freshman Briauna Jones won the Women's Most Outstanding Rookie Award, while junior Jake Deaton was tabbed Most Outstanding Field Performer. Director of Track and Field Bob Olesen was named Women's Outdoor Track and Field Coach of the Year.

Senior Darius Law captured four event titles, including two individual first-place finishes in the 400 and 200-meter dashes.

MEN'S B'BALL RECRUITING CLASS RECEIVES HIGH PRAISE

ESPN senior recruiting analyst Dave Telep identifies Charlotte's 2011-12 recruiting class as one of the top 10 in the nation.

"Charlotte rolled up its sleeves and got to work," Telep said. "It battled some bigger schools, evaluated correctly for its program and the results are a class that should set the foundation for Alan Major's tenure."

As of the end of April, Charlotte had signed four prospects: 6-4 guard Terrence Williams, 6-7 forward E. Victor Nickerson, 6-10 center Mike Thorne and 6-3 guard Pierriá Henry. Williams, Nickerson and Thorne signed in the fall of 2010, while Henry was added in the spring of 2011.

In addition, the 49ers return their top four scorers from last season: Derrio Green, Deuce Briscoe, Chris Braswell and Javaris Barnett. The mix of veteran returnees and an impressive recruiting class will give the 49ers a stronger foothold in the Atlantic 10 Conference.

Williams, who starred at West Mecklenburg, epitomizes versatility, giving the 49ers a high-scoring guard comfortable with the ball in his hands. Nickerson, from Atlanta, has been ranked in ESPN's top 100, and Rivals.com ranks him at #133 in their top 150.

Thorne hails from Fayetteville, N.C. and was ranked as the 24th-best center prospect by ESPN's College Basketball Recruiting. Henry, a signee out of South Charleston, W. Va., was first team Class AAA all-state for his second all-state honor, and earned runner-up honors in the state Player of the Year voting.

34TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING RAISES OVER \$65,000

Over 120 participants turned out to take part in the 34th annual 49er Club Golf Outing. OrthoCarolina sponsored the event at Pine

Island Country Club April 18.

The club raised over \$65,000, surpassing its goal of \$62,000. Proceeds benefited the 49ers Athletic Scholarship Fund.

Participants included Chancellor Phil Dubois and football coach Brad Lambert. Men's basketball coach Alan Major greets participants throughout the course. Director of Athletics Judy Rose hosted a post-round reception where the winning foursome from The Pepsi Beverages Co. received their first-place award.

David Stanford of Edifice Inc. served as event chairperson. Presenting sponsors were the Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority, Coca-Cola Bottling Co. Consolidated, Lee Valve Co. and Rodgers Builders. Classic Tile and Marble sponsored the lunch provided by Jocks and Jills.



Men's basketball coach Alan Major (far right) greets golfers at the 49er Club Golf Outing.



49ers football coach Brad Lambert looks on as one of his playing partners tees off at the Wells Fargo Championship Pro-Am.



Leading the charge

Photo by Wade Bruton

Brandishing “Stake Your Claim” pickaxes, UNC Charlotte Alumni Association President Greg Ross (front) and Chancellor Philip L. Dubois (also donning a 49ers jersey and hard hat) lead the charge through a makeshift “tunnel” onto the future home of the Charlotte 49ers football team at a festive groundbreaking ceremony in late April. Students, alumni and other ardent fans tailgated on the site of the future stadium, enjoying traditional treats like hot dogs, tacos and beer. It was readily apparent from the large and boisterous crowd that autumn Saturdays will no longer be serene as long as the 49ers are in town.

Goldfield sees
Civil War as
U.S.'s greatest
political failure

By Lisa A. Patterson

NO CHOICE BUT TO FIGHT?

UNC Charlotte historian David Goldfield is no stranger to controversy. His 2002 book, “Still Fighting the Civil War,” criticized those who characterized the conflict as a courageous lost cause, raising the ire of some Southerners.

Goldfield’s latest book, the critically acclaimed “America Aflame: How the Civil War Created a Nation,” has garnered a similar reaction, but from a different camp. The book takes aim at the role evangelical fervor played in the North (and later in the South) in the making of the bloodiest war in American history.

The book was released in advance of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War — the war’s first shots were fired on April 12, 1861 — and has been recognized as an engrossing interpretation of a period marked by deep-seated divisions and extreme transformation.

The Civil War is a well-worn topic; more than 100,000 books have been written about the conflict, or approximately a book per day since the war’s end in 1865. Despite this literary abundance, few historians have taken Goldfield’s approach.

“We’ve gotten into a rut in the past 50 years in writing about the war,” Goldfield explains. “The North is often depicted as the Republic of Virtue and the South as the Evil Empire. The conflict is reduced to whether the war was fought over slavery or states’ rights.”

The United States became a slaveholding nation 250 years before the Civil War. So why was there a war in 1861? Goldfield’s answer: Because the political process broke down as a result of the injection of evangelical Protestantism into that process.

EVANGELICAL RELIGION

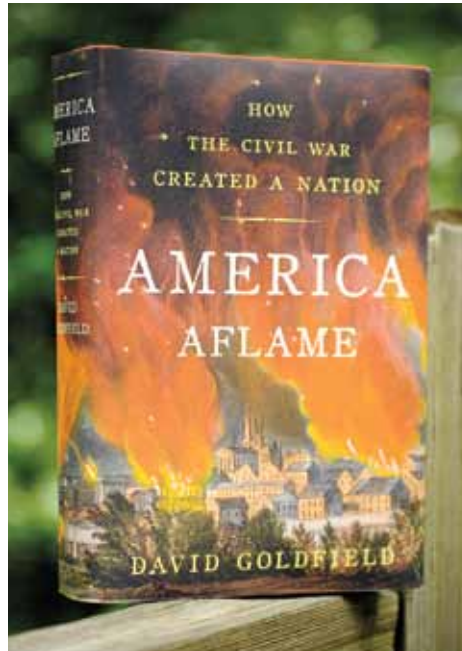
In his second inaugural address, delivered within days of the war’s end, Abraham Lincoln squarely placed blame for the conflict on both sides, striking a conciliatory tone toward the embattled South. Four years prior, the rhetoric was altogether different.

“America Aflame” transports readers back to a time of Protestant evangelical religious revival known as the Second Great Awakening, a movement that swept across the country in the decades prior to the war and resulted in the creation of new religious denominations.

Goldfield says the Awakening inspired



“We’ve gotten into a rut in the past 50 years in writing about the war. The North is often depicted as the Republic of Virtue and the South as the Evil Empire.”



In his new book, “America Aflame,” UNC Charlotte historian David Goldfield advances a controversial thesis about the necessity of the Civil War. What he views as a “war of choice” resulted in the loss of 620,000 American lives.

millions of Americans to embrace Jesus Christ as their personal savior, but it also propelled some to use their faith to wield public policy as a righteous club against those they perceived as a threat to the second coming of Christ — especially slaveholders and Roman Catholics.

The infusion of religion into politics led to the erosion of the political center and later hardened the attitude that war was the only means to settle the dispute over slavery, Goldfield claims. What had once been an intractable political situation became a matter of morality; compromise was no longer a viable option.

“A democracy functions best through moderation and compromise. Unfortunately

many people in 1861 related moderation and compromise to weakness. They wanted something forceful done,” Goldfield says. “If you govern from the center, there is a respect for differing opinions, not only a tolerance. The problem with the time before the Civil War was your enemy was an ‘evil’ person.”

Goldfield makes clear that he does not seek to minimize the injustice and horrors of slavery. Instead, he weighs the costs of the war against the possibility that slavery would have collapsed without the loss of life, property and unforeseeable consequences of war.

\$6.7 BILLION WAR

Harvard University historian Claudia D. Goldin computes the total monetary cost of the Civil War at around \$6.7 billion in 1860s currency. Much of the economic hardship of the war was suffered by the Southern states, but the human toll touched every family in practically every small town and city in America.

Goldfield has won praise for offering a raw account of the human tragedy.

“At the start of the war, and years later, the war was romanticized as a great adventure,” Goldfield says. “I want readers to be transported and feel the smoke and the dirt and the death all around them. I wanted to get readers into the grit and grime of the battle and what the soldiers were really going through. They were young men, for the most part, who had rarely ventured beyond the small towns and farms of their birth.”

Just prior to the start of the war, the population of the United States was close to 30 million. More than 620,000 civilian soldiers lost their lives during the war; thousands more were maimed, and countless family and friends mourned for them. The first treatise describing symptoms that would more than 100 years later become



known as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder was written in 1876.

The Civil War also contributed to the acceleration of the Industrial Revolution.

"It wasn't coincidental that the 1870s was the greatest period of economic growth in American history," Goldfield says.

However, the South lost out on any benefits from the war. Four years of battles fought primarily on Southern soil left the agrarian region deeply damaged. Economic development didn't occur on anywhere near the scale it did in the North, where the war had spurred revolutionary advancements in communications, transportation and mechanization, and spawned new industries.

"The legislation the Republicans passed during the war facilitated doing business after the war," Goldfield notes.

The national banking act led to the creation of the U.S. national currency, business practices were made uniform and therefore more reliable, and the building of the transcontinental railroad opened up the West to commerce. In addition, a Federal subsidy for land-grant colleges to educate young men to become farmers and engineers led to improvement in agricultural productivity.

In less than a decade, America had been reborn, but it took at least another century for African-Americans to achieve the freedom promised with the end of slavery. While the war hastened a legal end to human bondage, most

"A democracy functions best through moderation and compromise. Unfortunately many people in 1861 related moderation and compromise to weakness. They wanted something forceful done."

Americans were more concerned with taking advantage of new economic opportunities than they were with bringing the South back into the Union or bestowing civil rights on African-Americans. Ultimately, Goldfield concludes that the same ends could have been achieved without military action.

"The Civil War was America's greatest political failure," Goldfield says.

PAST MEETS PRESENT

Goldfield started down his current path at the tender age of 10, when his aunt and uncle began plying him with books about Southern history. He later became intrigued with the South when another aunt introduced him to great Southern writers such as William Faulkner, Thomas Wolfe and Eudora Welty.

Born in Memphis, Tenn., and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y., Goldfield, a Jewish-American, brings the perspective of an outsider to his work.

"The South was so different from the rest of America — it has always been outside the American mainstream," Goldfield says. He joined the faculty at UNC Charlotte in 1982 and has since served as the Robert Lee Bailey Professor of History in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

A prolific writer, Goldfield has spent his professional life making history accessible to his students and the general public.

"Too often historians write for each other and then complain the general public doesn't get it," he says. "It's not that people don't like history it's just that professional historians have not really made that history accessible."

Works that ask "what if" are often attacked as "revisionist history." Of that charge "America Aflame" hasn't been spared. But Goldfield is okay with that.

"I've gotten some sharp comments on the book because I'm trying to revise our understanding of the Civil War. Just as early in the 20th century there was another type of rut among historians — the prevailing wisdom was that the South fought the war over states' rights, and Reconstruction was a time of Yankee oppression and black misrule," he notes. "That was just as incorrect, I would argue, as the current revision of that old view."

It's easy to draw parallels between the modern political condition in the United States and the conditions at the time of the Civil War. At the heart of Goldfield's thesis is a faith in democracy and the political process, and optimism for the future. But, in an era of political extremism, when the demonization of one's opponent is par for the course, Goldfield warns we should remember our history, lest we repeat it.

Lisa A. Patterson is senior writer in the Office of Public Relations.

Shades of Meaning

By Lisa A. Patterson

Anthropologist, Historian Examine 'What is Race?'

White, yellow, copper, tawny, tawny-black, Caucasian, Saxon, Teutonic, Nordic, Aryan, white/Anglo... These are just some of the descriptors that have been used to classify humans into distinct racial categories.

But what is race? UNC Charlotte professor of anthropology Jonathan Marks says that question, while still confusing to a majority of the public, has been settled.

"Race is not a biological fact," he says. "It is a false theory the human species comes packaged naturally in a very small number of distinct kinds of people."

Specific facial features, skin color, kinds of hair — these are cited as evidence of difference, but revolutions in the understanding of biology and anthropology in the past two decades have brought the recognition that difference and race are not one and the same.

Human population has never respected geographical boundaries, Marks notes. "We know what the biological factors are that lead populations to become different — they evolve to adapt to their local environments, but they also interbreed with neighbors over long periods of historical time."



Photo by Robbin Holland

Renowned historian Nell Irvin Painter visited Charlotte to discuss the idea of race and the evolution of what it has meant to be "white" throughout human history.

Scientists quantified genetic differences in the 1970s. "If you sort out detectable genetic differences into amount of difference within each group, within local groups compared to other local groups, and then from continent to continent, 90 percent of detectable genetic variation is within a local group," Marks says, citing blood type as one example of local genetic variation.

In short, the human race has evolved along a genetic continuum, with more variation within groups than between groups. But the fact of biological similarity hasn't stopped humans from dividing

ourselves into racial groups, often with unforeseen, negative consequences.

WHAT IS WHITE?

Social class and culture influence heavily the way race is thought about, written about and perceived.

In her book, "The History of White People," Nell Irvin Painter sheds light on how these and other factors have contributed to the way light-skinned people have been characterized from antiquity to the present.

The renowned historian and professor emeriti from Princeton attempts to answer the question, "Who are white people and where did they come from?"

Painter discussed her work this spring at a public lecture sponsored by the UNC Charlotte College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Levine Museum of the New South.

Her exploration of 2,000 years of western civilization sheds light on the invention of race and how white slavery, like black slavery, moved people around and mixed up the gene pool.

In Ancient Greece, race did not exist, she explains. Rather, Greeks thought of faraway peoples in terms of place, and later turned to differences in climate to explain differences in human temperament.

Centuries later, European travel writers and "race scholars" created the categories that have survived in modern times.

The concept of a Caucasian race came from Johann Friedrich Blumenbach, who divided humans into five races by color and ascribed color differences to climate. His conviction that people of the Caucasus region were the most beautiful led to the creation of the Caucasian category, which later became the term for the race known as "white."

While the term "Caucasian" remains in the American vernacular, its popularity is waning. It no longer has a place on the U.S. Census form, having been replaced by "White" in 2000 — more evidence that the notion of race will continue to evolve as it has for centuries.

Lisa A. Patterson is senior writer in the Office of Public Relations.

Mark Clemens is the co-founder of HepatoSys, which has won more than \$2 million in grants from the National Institutes of Health.

Five Ventures
celebrates 10th
anniversary

By Arthur O. Murray

Egging on Entrepreneurs

Photo by Wade Bruton

“The short-term outcome is a lot more excitement around campus, around the culture of entrepreneurs – they’re thinking how their knowledge can translate into new products.”



Photo by Juan Galvez

At the 10th annual Five Ventures conclusion, MailVU won the \$10,000 Grand Prize in the for-profit sector. Pictured left to right are Bob Wilhelm, executive director of the Charlotte Research Institute; Alan Fitzpatrick, Kamilla Wyatt and Addy Kapur of MailVU; and Devin Collins, CRI's assistant director for business and entrepreneurial development.



Photo by Juan Galvez

The Five Ventures second place award in the for-profit category went to CanDiag, led by Pinku Murherjee, the Irwin Belk Endowed Scholar for Cancer Research at UNC Charlotte. She will serve as the chief scientific officer of the company. She is pictured with CRI's Bob Wilhelm and Devin Collins and Raul Puri.

Time was, universities taught. Students learned. And that was pretty much that. Today, universities — particularly public ones like UNC Charlotte — have a hand in economic development, too.

Part of that mission is encouraging entrepreneurship, and that's where UNC Charlotte's annual Five Ventures Business Innovation Competition, organized by the Charlotte Research Institute, the Belk College of Business, the Office of Technology Transfer and The Ben Craig Center, comes into play.

This year's competition, held in mid-April, was the 10th. The Five Ventures

Business Innovation Competition was founded with the goal of helping early-stage UNC Charlotte businesses grow, and originally focused on only five companies — hence the competition's name.

The program has grown into an economic-development competition attracting companies from four states. Since the competition began, more than 85 start-ups have made it to the finals, and alumni companies have raised more than \$40 million in venture capital.

“The short-term outcome is a lot more excitement around the campus, around the culture of entrepreneurs,” said Dr. Robert

Wilhelm, UNC Charlotte's associate provost for Strategic Research Partnerships and executive director of the Charlotte Research Institute. “That's a big result for students and faculty — they're thinking how their knowledge can translate into new products.”

The 11 finalists in this year's competition, which included innovators in the automotive, biotechnology, consumer marketing and renewable energy fields, advanced after surviving two rounds of competition that drew start-up entrants from North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee. They competed for a total of \$50,000 in cash and services to the winners.

Finalists in the non-student category were Laser Biopsy Inc. of Asheville and Camber Ridge LLC, CanDiag LLC, DeskIt, mailVU and OverstockAds, all of Charlotte. The \$10,000 grand prize went to mailVU, with second-place CanDiag taking \$2,500 and Camber Ridge taking \$1,000 for third. MailVu also won the \$1,000 People's Choice Award voted by the audience.

Student company finalists were Allincoupons.com and Solar Max Engineering, both from UNC Charlotte; Cullowhere, from Western Carolina University; and FAC International and Good Fit from UNC Chapel Hill. Solar Max won the \$2,500 student grand prize, with GoodFit getting \$1,000 for second place and AllinCoupons.com, FAC Internacional and Cullowhere taking \$500 awards. Cullowhere also won the \$1,000 J.

Chris Murphy Award voted by the audience.

Those 11 already are winners. In preparation for the finals, the entrepreneurs participated in an intense mentoring process with teams of the Charlotte region's leading entrepreneurs, investors, business professionals and legal advisers. Many previous winners cite this as among the most important attributes of the competition.

"As a public university, it's our responsibility and in our interest to serve the regional community as well as the country and the world," Wilhelm said. "This is one piece of the puzzle for the university — and an important one. There are companies that are in Charlotte because of the entrepreneurial spirit of UNC Charlotte."

The university also benefits, Wilhelm said. "Doing things like this, having a strong tech-transfer program, these help recruit the kinds of faculty we're looking for. We want faculty that want to work on applied research, and they want to share that enthusiasm with students."

Sponsors of the 2011 competition include the four organizers of the competition noted earlier, University City Partners, City of Charlotte Neighborhood & Business Services, Robinson, Bradshaw & Hinson PA; Summa, Additon & Ashe PA; Hammer & Associates PC; Wed3; Smith, Moore, Leatherwood PA; Inception Micro Angel Fund; the Small Business Technology Development Center of North Carolina; Duke Energy; Memminger E. Wiggins PLLC; Fisher Family Foundation; and Jenkins, Wilson, Taylor, & Hunt PA.

For a flavor of the companies who enter the Five Ventures competition and how they benefit, here is a look at five past participants.

CALYPTIX SECURITY (2003)

Lawrence Teo and Yuliang Zheng met at Monash University in Australia and co-founded Calyptix Security in 2002.

They incorporated the company, which developed a multi-functional firewall, network management and security system, in 2002, shortly after coming to UNC Charlotte, Teo as a doctoral student, Zheng as a professor. Zheng is no longer active in Calyptix, which employs 11.

The year after incorporation, the company entered the competition. "In the beginning, we had big plans on different things," said Teo,

now vice president. He said he approached the Office of Technology Transfer, which encouraged them to present their plans to the commercialization committee. "Members had expertise in business, intellectual-property law, pretty much everything. One of the key things they told us was to focus. We presented just one plan to the competition."



Solar Max Engineering won the \$2,500 Grand Prize Student award. UNC Charlotte student Terence Goveas of Solar Max is flanked by CRI's Executive Director Bob Wilhelm and Assistant Director for Business and Entrepreneurial Development Devin Collins.

Calyptix didn't win, but Teo said the most important thing was using the knowledge of the judges. "It was hearing from people who had been through it all telling us what was important and advising us not to repeat their mistakes. The main thing for us was focus. There was no way a startup could take on three things. We narrowed things down."

Among the people Teo met was Ben Yarbrough, a Charlotte lawyer who specialized in helping entrepreneurs. He initially helped Teo raise money and is now the company's CEO. "Five Ventures helped highlight them as a very talented team, which drew my interest," Yarbrough said. "It was a great platform to meet businessmen and investors and helped showcase their potential."

SOYMEDS (2006)

Soymeds was formed in 2005 by UNC Charlotte professors Kenneth Piller, who specializes in plant biology, and Kenneth

Bost, who specializes in immunology. The company, which employs five, makes therapeutic products within soybean seeds. Those include vaccines to heighten the immune system against some ailments and proteins to turn it down for auto-immune disorders like allergies and multiple sclerosis.

The researchers met after Piller moved

to the area from St. Louis. He taught at UNC Charlotte as an adjunct professor and met Bost. "He was looking for someone to get this project going. We saw it as a natural collaboration." Maybe they saw it as natural, but it is unusual, Bost said. "Plant guys and immunologists just don't get together. This was a unique situation here at UNC Charlotte. Not only do we have undergraduate but graduate projects where people get together."

Again, the tech-transfer office encouraged the researchers to form a company. "We were a bit resistant at first. I know very little about business. But they helped push and guide us," Piller said. Tech-transfer specialists also told them to enter the Five Ventures competition. "It got us thinking about business and commercial things we hadn't thought about before. It started out with doing the basics, putting the proposal together."

SoyMeds won the competition, collecting



Photo by Wade Bruton

SoyMeds was formed in 2005 by UNC Charlotte professors Kenneth Piller and Kenneth Bost who specialize in plant biology and immunology, respectively.

\$5,000. But Bost said other benefits also came with the win. “Investors asked whether it was a real company. Winning an entrepreneurial competition went a long way toward proving we weren’t a virtual company — that we were serious about what we were doing.”

FIX IT YOURSELF GARAGE (2010)

Will Rice won third place in the student division of last year’s competition with a project he called MyShop. He’s turned that into Fix It Yourself Garage, which opened about five months ago.

It was his second try in Five

Ventures. His first entrepreneurial idea, which he submitted two years ago, was a gym in which all the workout equipment would be regenerative, creating power instead of using it. He planned to sell the excess electricity to a utility. “When I came back last year, everyone remembered my idea. But this time I had a more down-to-earth idea about a garage, and I got a lot of guidance and support.”

It was an idea born of frustration. “I spend a lot of my time working on my car. Every time it needed a major procedure, I ended up working under the car in a parking lot.”

The idea sounds simple: Take an old warehouse, equip it with two hydraulic lifts and six service bays for do-it-yourself mechanics. The standard charge is \$20 an hour. But there are numerous legal liability issues to work through. The company makes customers sign multiple waivers, and restricts

Shane Woody and his wife, Bethany, formed InSituTec in 2001, while both were graduate students at UNC Charlotte.

operation of the lifts to employees.

Rice said he was comfortable pitching the idea alongside high-tech projects. “Those are much more complicated business models. There are a lot of unknowns. My concept was very down to earth,” he said. “A lot of the best fixes are the easiest thing. Everyone can understand that paying a mechanic \$80 an hour doesn’t make sense if what they’re doing is something you can do yourself.”

He met partner Dan Gotte through the competition. “He helped get it (the business) off the ground. He wanted to verify that I was serious about starting the business as he was coaching me,” Rice said. “He kind of pushed me into the deep end. That’s 90 percent of being an entrepreneur, not just having the idea but acting on it. It has been the most tremendous networking operation I could have done, and it’s free (for students).”

As for the gym idea, Rice hasn’t given up, though he admits the technology doesn’t exist to harvest energy from workouts. “It was crazy at the time,” he notes, “but it’s looking less crazy now. That could quite possibly become my next venture.”

INSITUTEC (2003)

Shane Woody and his wife, Bethany, formed InSituTec in 2001, while both were graduate students at UNC Charlotte. The company, which currently employs four, is involved in measurements.

Very, very small measurements.

Its instruments detect both size and motion. “On the measuring side, we make a unique measuring tool about one-thirtieth the size of a human hair,” Shane said. “That little tool enables the ability to get in very small areas for certain advanced manufacturing processes. We’re going after a variety of different industries — including the medical industry, for implants, and the automotive industry, for small parts in the engine itself.

“On the motion side, we make devices that can move less than the width of an atom,” he continues. “The industries that use that are very high-end manufacturing, like semiconductors.”

About a year after they started the company, the Woodys were introduced



Continued on p. 31

ANSWERS for Needy Moms

Susan Andersen Establishes Scholarship Program

By Melba Newsome



“The idea came to me to make good on my promise to help other women attend college.”

In 2005, Susan Andersen’s 22-year marriage was coming to an end. Oddly enough, this trying time in her life prompted her to reminisce about her days as a student at UNC Charlotte during the early 1980s. “I loved my time at UNC Charlotte,” she says. “There was nothing around us but corn fields and farms. The nearest McDonald’s was five miles away and Eastland was the closet shopping mall.”

Yet Andersen’s college experience almost never happened.

Poised to graduate from Myers Park High School when her parents divorced, she suddenly had no money for tuition and her plans for college were almost derailed. When she received a four-year scholarship from the Charlotte Organization of Insurance Women, she made a pledge to pay it forward one day. That day came in 2005.

1984 GRAD

“When I went through my divorce, I realized I was very blessed, but a lot of single moms struggle if they don’t have an education,” explains Anderson, who graduated from UNC Charlotte in 1984 with a degree in business administration. “The idea came to me to make good on my promise to help other women attend college.”

Photo by Wade Bruton

Using money from her divorce settlement, she established an endowment for the Andersen Non-Traditional Scholarship for Women's Education and Retraining. It is possibly the only scholarship that targets moms and their children. "A lot of single moms live at the poverty level or below. By supporting the moms, we increase the family's earning potential and opportunities for the children," she said.

The Foundation of the Carolinas selects the recipients and administers the ANSWER scholarships as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Scholarship recipients must be at least 25 years old, raising K-12 school-age children and pursuing a four-year degree or a two-year nursing degree in a Charlotte-area college. The amount of the scholarship is based on financial need and is paid directly to the university, for tuition and fees. To date, 17 women have received 30 scholarships. Nine have graduated, five are currently in the program and five more have gone on to get their master's degree.

The scholarship has been awarded to women enrolled at Queens University, Belmont Abbey College and Winthrop. But as a 49er, the UNC Charlotte recipients are especially close Andersen's heart.

SEARCHING FOR HELP

In 2006 Marie Dingle was a 40-year-old widow with two small children when she became one of the first scholarship recipients. "I couldn't figure out how to work, go to school and see the kids, so I looked for all the assistance I could find," said Dingle. "My ANSWER scholarship was \$500 a semester. Every little bit helps." Dingle graduated in 2009 with a degree in social work and is currently pursuing a master's in Library Information Studies through UNC Greensboro.

Andersen initially provided all of the scholarship's funding but as the program grew, she sought additional contributors. So far, the endowment has received a \$10,000 grant from the Leon Levine Foundation and a \$1,400 grant from Myers Park United Methodist church. "I never really thought I'd be a philanthropist," she said with a laugh. "We're helping one family at a time break the cycle of poverty."

Melba Newsome is a Charlotte-based freelance writer.

Continued from p. 29

to people involved with Five Ventures. "They had a competition for students, so we went into that. Even as a student, I'd had a federal grant through the missile-defense agency."

Although it was a difficult time — Shane was writing his dissertation as well as trying to run the company — he found the competition rewarding, even above the \$5,000 prize. "We got some valuable resources — an advisory board, our intellectual-property attorney and other attorneys as well," he said. "Some of those folks, we still use their services today."

A Hickory native, Shane especially likes the resources the university makes available to entrepreneurs. "For the first couple of years, we were under the university's umbrella, which gave us a good rate to lease an office and equipment. They worked with us not only through Five Ventures but also as an incubator."

Services came in such areas as accounting and legal help, and he's thankful to the university and the program. "They were giving the time to help the young folks out. The five-member advisory board (at Five Ventures) agreed to serve for a couple of years. It was incredibly invaluable. It was an A-plus experience for us."

HEPATOSYS (2009)

HepatoSys, formed in 2005 through a collaboration between UNC Charlotte professors Mark G. Clemens and Charles Lee, has won more than \$2 million in grants from the National Institutes of Health. It is developing methods to make more organs — especially livers — available for transplants.

Clemens, a biologist, and Lee, a mechanical engineer, are among five employees of the young business. Clemens explains the importance of the work. "There are about three-to-five times as many liver patients who need transplants as there are organs available, and many die waiting for an organ."

That's in part because organs currently used for transplant come from "brain dead" donors. But Clemens explains that there is a much larger segment of donors who die from cardiac issues. The problem is that the organs start deteriorating as soon as the blood flow is interrupted. "What our

technology does is it takes those organs that have been damaged and allows them to recover function so that they can then be used as donors for transplants. We could very substantially increase the number of organs available."

"We make devices that can move less than the width of an atom."

The company also has expanded the technology to restore function to liver cells sought by pharmaceutical companies to test new drugs. "Right now the most common reason for a new drug to fail clinical trials is they have liver toxicity," Clemens said. "Drug companies spend huge amounts of resources testing for this toxicity. But there just aren't enough human liver cells available for testing." He said if HepatoSys is successful in making more liver cells available for testing, it could improve functionality of drugs and make them cheaper.

UNC Charlotte's tech-transfer office encouraged the researchers to form the company and to enter Five Ventures. "At the time, we were realizing that our real strength was in the technology," Clemens said. "As part of the competition, they provide you with coaches with business expertise. That was very attractive with us."

The coaches encouraged Clemens and Lee to develop a business plan. "We were a little bit clueless as to how to put that together," Clemens said. "One of our coaches helped us put it together, and the (Small Business Innovation Research) grant got funded. Without the coaching that we got through Five Ventures, we wouldn't have achieved that."

The boost hasn't stopped, either. The company has gotten a lot of exposure, which will help when it solicits private-equity investment. "When we get to that point, we have a head start," Clemens said.

Arthur O. Murray is a Charlotte-area freelance writer.

Scholar, Athlete, Humanitarian

Darius Law selected for The Nish Jamgotch Jr. Humanitarian Student Award

By Paul Nowell

"The Samaritan's Feet basketball game on Jan. 19, 2010 was the most significant community experience of my life."

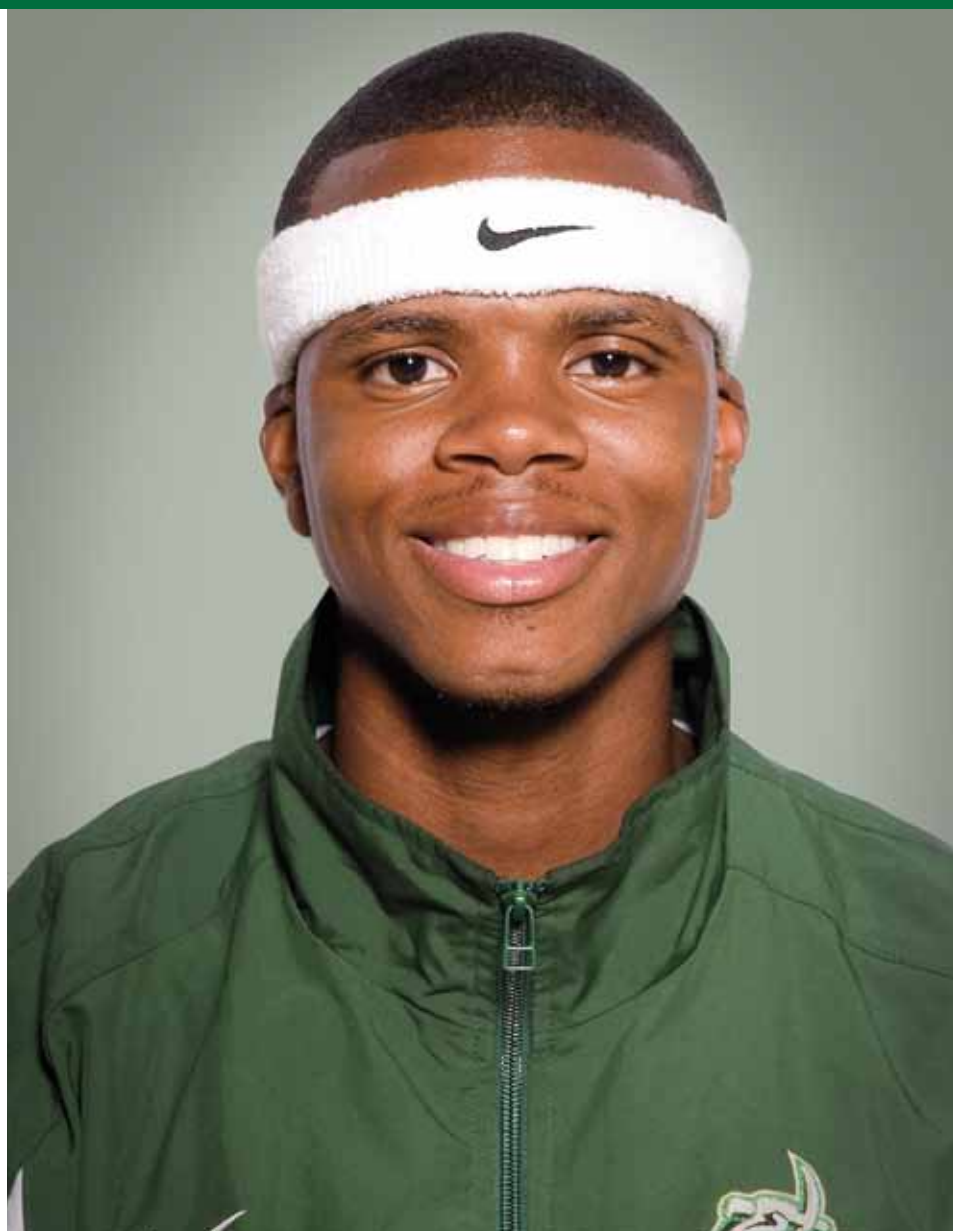
An accomplished student, gifted athlete and tireless humanitarian, Darius Law is the 2011 recipient of The Nish Jamgotch Jr. Humanitarian Student Award at UNC Charlotte.

Law, a May graduate from the Belk College of Business and an All-American track and field star, will receive a \$10,000 cash prize.

Since 2004, the award has recognized a student who demonstrated achievement and notable work in the humanitarian field. Political Science Professor Emeritus Nish Jamgotch Jr., who taught at UNC Charlotte from 1966-1993, established this award to honor a student with an established humanitarian track record.

In his letter to the Jamgotch Scholarship Committee, Law said he has been involved in a number of community service projects

Continued on p. 34



In Their Own Words

Jamgotch humanitarians staying busy

William Dalen Rice '10

I am currently working full-time for the City of Charlotte in utilities as a Research Fellow figuring out how to reduce energy use while still treating wastewater.

When I am not working for the city, I am running my business, the Fix-It-Yourself Garage. We are the answer to many a parking lot repairman's prayers, where people can come to work on their own cars. We have lifts, tools, and a few other small services. Our hourly rates are pretty cheap too.

I spend time with my Little Brother almost every week, I work at the Men's Shelter once a month, and occasionally I still do wine tastings with Wines for Humanity. I am also still running my miniature United Way (we gave away almost \$8,000 last year and hope to give away \$10,000 this year).

My plans for this year are to continue working with the city - hopefully being the point person for our new project to get power from methane, a treated wastewater emission - and to continue to grow the FIY Garage. My fellowship has a specific expiration on it, so I am also applying to be a firefighter and in the event we sell the FIY Garage, I am thinking about new business opportunities.

I am bouncing around the idea of trying to build a Jamgotch think tank around Darius, me, and Brett Tempest. Also trying to get to the Levine Scholars to see if any of them can, with a little wisdom-of-my-age, actually build something that makes a difference.



William Dalen Rice

at UNC Charlotte and a bachelor's degree at UNC Chapel Hill. His research interests include sustainable design and low-energy construction materials. He won Lee College awards as outstanding teaching assistant in 2007 and outstanding graduate teaching assistant in 2008.

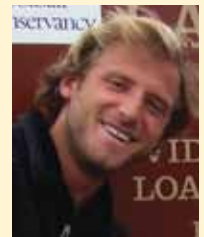
"I make concrete that's better for the environment. We make a concrete that is made out of the waste product fly ash - a material that normally would go into landfills. By producing less greenhouse gas we can improve the environment and reduce global warming. That's how I'm staking my claim."



Brett Tempest

Chip Howell '06

Chip Howell lives in Los Angeles, where he is a designer at Marmol Radziner and Associates architectural firm. His focus there is on environmentally friendly projects. "Right now I'm completing my professional experience as an architect so I'll have the freedom to pick and choose community work." He used his Jamgotch Award to go to Nicaragua, where he helped design and build a community center. "It resonates within me. It's a beacon, and a guiding light for the experience I'm gaining right now."



Chip Howell

Laura Mesec '08

Laura Mesec lives in Greensboro with her fiancé, Jonathan, where she teaches high-school English. "Receiving the Jamgotch Award was a huge honor. To have been picked out of the entire UNC Charlotte student body is humbling. I have continued to stay involved with volunteer organizations, specifically Habitat for Humanity. I have helped out with a few builds through the school I teach at and hope to continue to do so. I also hope to join a mission team as soon as possible through my church. The fact that I won the Jamgotch Award is always in the back of mind, and that often helps to remind me to give back to others and use the gifts that God has given me to help others."



Laura Mesec

Lakeisha Rainey '05

At UNC Charlotte, Rainey co-chartered the American Medical Student Association, the first premedical organization at the university. As president, she helped plan events that better prepared students for graduate work. For three years, Rainey was a resident advisor on campus and volunteered at the Charlotte Rescue Mission; the H.E.L.P. Store, which provides packages of food and clothes to needy families; and Meals on Wheels of Charlotte. Additionally, Rainey lobbied to improve pharmaceutical drug coverage for seniors and worked with the Breast Cancer Resource Center in Fayetteville to which she donated some of her award money.



LaKeisha Rainey

Brett Tempest '07

Brett Tempest, Ph.D., remains at UNC Charlotte, serving as an assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering in the William States Lee College of Engineering. He earned his doctorate in infrastructure and environmental systems in 2010, after previously earning master's and bachelor's degrees

Andrew Clark '04

Andrew Clark is an international-project specialist with the International Technical Assistance Program of the U.S. Department of the Interior.



Andrew Clark

Continued from p. 32

during his four years at UNC Charlotte, but one really stands out in his memory.

"The Samaritan's Feet Basketball game on January 19th, 2010, was the most significant community experience of my life," he wrote. "Entering my senior year, I decided that I wanted to lead a movement on the UNC Charlotte campus to help save children's lives by providing them with a pair of shoes; believe it or not, a child dies from a foot-related illness caused by not having shoes every 15 seconds somewhere in the world."

Law said the game – in which Charlotte 49ers Coach Alan Major coached barefoot – helped raise over \$2,800 and buy more than 70 pairs of shoes for needy children in the area.

"The best part about it is that we are still not done yet as I'm currently in the process of trying to coordinate an event with Samaritan's Feet that will allow our student athletes to distribute the shoes that we collected to children in the Charlotte community," Law wrote. "This award would give me an opportunity to start my true humanitarian work."

Law, who has a 4.0 GPA, also is involved in such community service programs as

Alexander Youth Network, Epilepsy Walk volunteer, mentor for the Wake County Detention Center, Toys for Tots, and Relay for Life. He is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.

His athletic feats are equally impressive. An All-American track and field athlete, Law received the 2010 Arthur Ashe Jr. Male Sports Scholar Athlete of the Year Award, given to the top minority male student-athlete in the nation. He also serves as President of the UNC Charlotte Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and is the Atlantic 10 representative to the NCAA Minority Interests and Opportunities Committee.

In her letter of recommendation to the committee, Athletics Director Judy Rose included a lengthy list of Law's community

"I'm currently in the process of trying to coordinate an event with Samaritan's Feet that will allow our student athlete's to distribute the shoes that we collected to children in the Charlotte community."

service activities. She concluded her letter with a personal reflection on his character that she witnessed at the Atlantic 10 track championship.

A member of the UNC Charlotte track team, Stephen Archer, had died while playing in a basketball game on campus a few months earlier, Rose said. As expected, Law won several individual and relay medals at the meet. Archer's parents were in attendance and his father shared with the team that his son always talked about "this guy who could fly, Darius Law."

"At the conclusion of the meet, Darius gave one of the medals he earned to Stephen's parents in honor of their son," Rose wrote. "His actions speak louder than his words and his actions are always about others."

Besides graduate school, he plans to train for the 2012 US Olympic Trials after his graduation from the university.

The other finalists for this scholarship were Cassandra Haran, a senior in College of Education; and Elizabeth Shockey, a graduate student in Geography and Earth Sciences. The scholarship was presented at the Honors Awards banquet on May 2, 2011.

The Jamgotch Scholarship Committee consisted of Arthur Jackson, chairman of the committee and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; Gary Kohut, a professor in the Department of Management; Anita Blowers, a professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology; Al Maisto, Associate Dean and Professor, Honors College; Lawrence Calhoun, a professor in the Department of Psychology; Tyrel Moore, an associate professor in the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences, and Barbara Jefferson, retired school principal and consultant with the Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools.



Darius Law is surrounded by students during one of his many activities, which include Alexander Youth Network, Epilepsy Walk, Relay for Life, Samaritan's Feet and Toys for Tots.

Major Download

Atkins Library Ramps Up Digital Collection, Research Capacity

By Shelly Theriault

There's been a quiet explosion of digital scholarship here on campus. Recent acquisitions made by UNC Charlotte's J. Murrey Atkins Library are leveling the playing field with other large research institutions far older than UNC Charlotte.

Last summer, facing uncertain times of budget cuts and financial restraint, University librarian Stanley Wilder made a request to actually increase current digital collections through a one-time, large-scale purchasing effort. Although fiscally counterintuitive, the need for greater depth and breadth to critical electronic, research-level collections had continually grown. Wilder consulted at length with Chancellor Phil Dubois and Academic Affairs Provost Joan Lorden to determine the best strategy to pursue this goal.

Once approved, a large-scale expansion of digital collections began in November, providing a vast new array of digital primary resources, supporting the university's emerging research identity. Faculty, academic departments and the University's Library Liaisons program collaborated extensively to help select and prioritize what electronic databases would offer the greatest educational impact for faculty and students.

The result has included the purchase of long sought after databases such as The Royal Society of Chemistry archives and historical newspapers ranging from the Atlanta Constitution to the Chicago Defender. And the work continues: math journal back files from publishers Elsevier and Springer Verlag are on the way, as well as the new Religious Studies Encyclopedia.

Karen Cox, associate professor in UNC Charlotte's Department of History, is thrilled with the new digital acquisitions. Close to finishing research for her new book, "Dreaming of Dixie: How the South was Created in American Popular Culture," Cox was notified that 20th century African-American newspapers were recently purchased in digital format.

"Being able to access these newspapers really

made a difference; they offered a more balanced and fuller story for my book," she said. The same collection is also used by Cheryl Hicks, another history professor who remarked, "Before the library's recent database purchases, students used primarily The New York Times; now they can use the Times but also look at how there might have been different perspectives noted about issues, events, and historical figures in the black and southern press."

Cox has also reintroduced her students to the "Readers Guide for Periodical Literature," now in electronic format. Although its paper publication has been used for decades by researchers, it's new to many of today's students, who primarily conduct research via their computer. Cox can now point them to varying perspectives of a subject through popular, general interest magazines, asking questions such as, "What did Time magazine say about that?"

According to Heather Perry, a College of Liberal Arts & Sciences representative to the Faculty Advisory Library Committee, "These databases are crucial to creating and maintaining a quality research environment. I've worked hard with the library staff to acquire databases of information/research which are useful across disciplines such as history, business, chemistry, Africana studies, global studies, and more."

Evan Faulkenbury, a graduate student in UNC Charlotte's public history program, is a frequent user of the library's Special Collections' digital archives. "A lot of the digitized materials

are useful in unusual ways," he said. "The William Hoke Sumner photographs, for example, brings my local research on Charlotte to life by highlighting many of the ordinary people that comprised this important southern city."

Digital Programs Archivist Kristy Dixon noted, "We can capture history as it's happening through images, sounds, documents and other archival materials that gives greater authenticity for researchers and the public."

Digital collections provide another significant benefit: time and cost savings. Often, the ability to obtain primary resources for research can be a very convoluted and expensive process. Perry, who's also a specialist in German culture, said, "I can't tell you how much more cost-effective it is for me to be able to access something electronically — as opposed to having to use university/research funding to fly overseas, rent a hotel room, pay per diem costs, and then the exorbitant archival usage/copy fees (sometimes up to one euro per page)."

Atkins Library's growing digital collection mirrors the trajectory of UNC Charlotte and its rise as a research institution. New discoveries, findings and perspectives increase the University's intellectual capital and standing in the academic world. The library's 21st century technology that brings the world to the campus doorstep is critical part of the story.

Shelly Theriault is the library's communications and marketing manager.



An Indelible Mark

Sociologist Roslyn Mickelson Receives 2011 Scholars Medal



Roslyn Arlin Mickelson has made tremendous contributions to her field and to the University. She was honored with the 2011 First Citizens Bank Scholars Medal and is pictured here (second from right) with (left to right) brother David F. Mickelson, husband Stephen S. Smith, daughter Virginia G. Smith, and son David M. Smith.

Roslyn Arlin Mickelson's work has left an indelible mark on the understanding of race and gender inequality in education. Her scholarship has had an impact across a range of disciplines — including sociology, legal scholarship and education policy.

In recognition of her scholarly achievements, Mickelson is the 2011 recipient of the First Citizens Bank Scholars Medal, presented by First Citizens Bank and UNC Charlotte.

Prior to earning her doctorate in sociology of education from the University of California—Los Angeles, Mickelson confronted the realities of school racial segregation first-hand as a teacher at Morningside High School in Inglewood, Calif.

The nine years Mickelson spent teaching in Inglewood launched her intellectual inquiry into the politics and social dynamics of school desegregation. When Mickelson joined the faculty of UNC Charlotte in 1985, she brought with her a perspective on the real experiences of students, parents and teachers.

Mickelson's scholarship examines the effects of ethnicity, race, family background and gender on educational outcomes as they play out through people's lives. Her research has evolved to focus on issues ranging from childhood homelessness, corporate leaders and school reform, and the effects of school racial composition on educational outcomes.

In addition, her public policy work focuses on the choices available to decision makers and how those choices either foster greater opportunities or reproduce inequalities. Mickelson's research was cited in a 2007 Supreme Court decision about voluntary desegregation plans in Seattle

and Louisville.

Mickelson's more recent research engages the question, "What does the social science literature tell us about the effects of school and classroom racial and socioeconomic composition on educational outcomes?"

Thus far, she has found that the preponderance of social science literature shows that all students who attend racially and socioeconomically diverse schools are more likely to achieve higher test scores and better grades; to graduate from high school; and to attend and graduate from college — compared with students who attend schools with high concentrations of low-income and/or disadvantaged minority youth.

The results of this work have come to the attention of White House officials. Mickelson was invited to present her findings to U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan in March.

While at UNC Charlotte, Mickelson has secured nearly \$7 million in federal research funding and student support monies. In addition, Mickelson has earned a reputation within the department and across the University as a caring and dedicated mentor to both graduate students and junior faculty. She has chaired 28 master's degree thesis committees and served on 45 more. She has chaired or served on the committees of nearly 20 doctoral students.

Now in its 24th year, the Scholars Medal spotlights important contributions UNC Charlotte and its faculty are making throughout the world. Past recipients have influenced scholarship in art and photography, engineering, microchip technology, sociology, biology and other fields.

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Kenechukwu Onwugbolu
Marketing, Honors Program, Class of 2011

Mona Abbasi,
Biology/Pre-Med, Honors Program, Class of 2011

1990s

Duncan Wilson Joins Sterling Financial Group, Inc.

Duncan Wilson, JD, MBA has joined Sterling Financial Group, Inc. as an Assistant Planner. Wilson is a graduate of the University of North Carolina - Charlotte and has a joint Law and MBA degree from Wake Forest University.



Duncan Wilson, JD, MBA

Matthews-based Sterling Financial Group, Inc. is a full service financial firm, serving business owners and families throughout North Carolina since 1991. Sterling Financial Group, Inc. specializes in providing a customer-focused approach to asset management. The company prides itself in merging "Wall Street acumen with Main Street values" to help individuals achieve their business, family and life goals.

Amarr Promotes East to Vice President of Operations

Amarr Garage Doors has promoted **Tony East** to Vice President of Operations. In his new capacity, East will oversee all day-to-day operations of Amarr's 70 Door Centers.

East, who lives in East Bend, joined Amarr in 1994, beginning as a product engineer at the company's support center in Winston-Salem. Later, he served as Director of Applications Engineering, Director of Manufacturing at the company's manufacturing facility in Mocksville, N.C. and, most recently, as a regional director. Additionally, East had served as a member of the technical committee of DASMA (Door & Access Systems Manufacturers Association).

"Tony has been an invaluable team member at Amarr for nearly two decades and has made many important

contributions to our company success in recent years," said Richard Brenner, Chief Executive Officer of Amarr Garage Doors. "Now, he will have an opportunity to make a direct impact on the operations of our Door Centers. I'm thrilled to have Tony as part of our team in his new leadership capacity."

East grew up in Hamptonville, N.C. He received the B.S. degree in engineering from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 1994 and the M.B.A. degree from Wake Forest University in August, 2006.

Amarr is the largest privately held U.S. manufacturer and distributor of residential and commercial garage doors.

Harwood Appointed As President Of Parsons Enterprises

Parsons announces the appointment of Dean Harwood as President of Parsons Enterprises, a new entity focused on the development of concession-based businesses built on Parsons' strong credentials in infrastructure capital-asset delivery. Mr. Harwood will be responsible for corporate activities in public-private partnerships, project financing, project investments, and mergers and acquisitions (M&A).

Mr. Harwood will report to the Office of the CEO.

Mr. Harwood has more than 20 years of experience in corporate and operational finance, profit and loss management, strategy and development, competitive analysis, and M&A. He joined Parsons in 2001 and has since held a succession of positions with increasing responsibilities. His most recent position was Vice President, Strategy/Development. In this capacity, he worked with Parsons management on the development and implementation of the corporation's overall strategy as well as its market-specific strategies. He also assisted with market and competitive intelligence and M&A activities.



Dean Harwood

Prior to that, he served as the manager of Parsons' Technology Division.

Harwood is a Certified Public Accountant in the State of North Carolina. He holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and a master's degree in business administration from Emory University's Goizueta Business School. He also participated in the Advanced Management Program at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. He is based in Charlotte, NC.

Parsons, celebrating more than 65 years of growth in the engineering and construction industry, is a leader in many diversified markets with a focus on infrastructure, environmental, and defense/security.

1970s

Jean Whatley publishes e-novel

Jean Whatley '76, a creative arts graduate, has published a novel developed specifically for digital readers such as Kindle. The book, "A Note to Teacher" is her first published novel (Aspen Mountain Press) and is available from the Amazon.com Kindle store, Book Strand and All Romance e-books. Whatley lives in Charlotte.



Jean Whatley

What are you doing?

It is time to share what you've been up to lately and let other alums help you toot your horn or spread the word on small or large achievements. We want to hear from you.

Visit the Alumni Affairs Web site at www.unccharlottealumni.org and tell us what you've been doing.

Or write **Alumni Affairs, UNC Charlotte**, 9201 University City Blvd. Charlotte, NC 28223-0001

Eight Students Get Alum Scholarships

In April the UNC Charlotte Alumni Association held its annual scholarship awards reception. Eight students received scholarships, each one receiving one of two scholarships provided by the association.

The UNC Charlotte Alumni Association Scholarship was established in 1979 and is awarded to a junior who has shown exemplary school spirit through success in academic engagement and service to the university and the community. More than \$149,000 has been awarded to 94 students. This year's recipients were Christopher Byrd, a history major; Erin Hughes, a nursing major; Ariana Sutton, an art major and Thai B. Truong, a biology major.

The Dr. Gregory Davis Scholarship was established in 2008 and is named in honor of Davis, a 1976 alum. The scholarship is



(From left) John Snelsire, interim director of Alumni Affairs, Ernestine Davis, Dr. Gregory Davis and Greg Ross, Alumni Association president, celebrate with scholarship recipients.

given to students with demonstrated financial need who possess good academic standing. Davis is recently retired from UNC Charlotte where he was instrumental in several programs designed to keep students on moving toward graduation, including the University Transition Opportunities Program (cover story Q1 2011 edition). The recipients were Ricardo A. Romero Alvarado, electrical engineering; Teinnia E.

McDuffie, pre-elementary education; Terrae McMiller, pre-communication studies and Melissa B. Siegel, sociology and political science.

"Because of the scholarship I am able to save money in the fall and pay for summer classes so I can graduate next May and get out working in the community faster to work to make Charlotte more equal and inclusive of all people," Siegel said.

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85/85	7.0

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DREAM ON...

Somewhere on campus in 1984 – big oaks on sprawling grounds are harder to find now – a student takes a break to dream of straight A's and the coming of springtime. UNC Charlotte's 1,000 acre campus is much different now, with more than a dozen major facilities built on campus in the last five years. But although it isn't as pastoral as 25 years ago, it is a place of memorable spaces where dreams are dreamed and hopes become achievements.



Educating Bright, Caring, Committed Teachers

By Mary Lynne Calhoun, Dean, College of Education

Everybody's talking about education these days. Much of the conversation is worry-filled. Fiscal crises are leading to unprecedented cuts in education budgets. There are school closings and lay-offs. Some of the conversation focuses on anxious questions: Are America's schools failing? Is America losing its competitive edge? Is test-based accountability the right way to gauge the success of children? Of teachers? Of schools? And the big question: Is there a future for American public education?

Central to the discussion of the future of our schools is a laser-sharp focus on teachers and teaching. Recognizing that teachers have the most powerful impact on student achievement, questions have arisen about who should be teaching our children, how should they be recruited, prepared and evaluated, and how we can retain and support excellent teachers. These questions provide a strong platform for taking teaching seriously in America.

While many voices — policymakers, elected officials, philanthropic leaders, business and corporate entities, school boards and executives — bring important ideas and perspectives to the conversation, I wonder if all the right voices have joined the conversation and if all the right voices are being heard. I encourage us to broaden the conversation and to make sure that parents, young people and most especially teachers have the opportunity to shape America's educational future.

Institutions of higher education also must have a voice in the conversation. At UNC Charlotte, we are committed to the recruitment and preparation of the teachers we need now and in the future. Close to 7,000 UNC Charlotte alumni are teaching in North Carolina's public schools. UNC Charlotte is now the second-largest teacher education program among North Carolina's 47 colleges and universities, recommending over 600 new teachers for the North Carolina license each year. These new teachers come to the profession both through undergraduate teacher licensure programs

and graduate pathways to teaching for college graduates from other fields. In the current environment of tension, worry and negativity around schools and teaching, we should all be heartened by the presence of thousands of UNC Charlotte students — bright, caring, committed — who have said "yes" to careers in education.

We care not only about preparing "more" teachers but "better" teachers as well, those who can tackle the pressing challenges of children, youth and schools and who give every child the educational opportunities to learn, grow and have successful adult lives. Our faculty constantly examine the changing needs of children and schools to make sure our teacher candidates are prepared to help all children have rich, rigorous and authentic learning experiences, and to help all children succeed. Recent innovations in our teacher-education programs include a more intense focus on the clinical preparation of teachers, including experiences in schools throughout the four-year baccalaureate program, and on new impact studies that link P-12 student achievement to our teacher-education programs — which help inform our practice.

If the next generations of Americans are going to be able to cooperate, compete and succeed in our globally interconnected world, the answer to the big question — Is there a future for American public education? — must be a resounding "yes." UNC Charlotte stands ready to continue the conversation with our community, school and policy colleagues to work toward a bright educational future.




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